Volume 16, No. 6 October 2005 FREE

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
WIP
WORKS IN PROGRESS

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Established in 1990, by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

4 Years After 9/11: Local & Global Issues

Adapted from a talk in September by Prof. Therese Saliba at the Olympia Timberland Library

Reflecting back on the last 4 years since the tragic events of 9/11, I am reminded of an essay written by Bill Moyers entitled, "**Which America will we be now?"** In it, he described 9/11 as what educators call "a teachable moment," and argued that "what's at stake is democracy. Democracy wasn't canceled on Sept. 11," he writes," but democracy won't survive if citizens turn into lemmings."

So as we recall the tragedy, the horror, the vulnerability, loss and fear that many experienced on 9/11, I think it is also important to ask, "What America have we become in the past 4 years?" Since 9/11, we have been confronted with four years of Unnatural Disasters—including the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq—and so-called "Natural Disasters"—the Tsunami in Southeast Asia, Hurricane Katrina and the devastating aftermath in New Orleans.

But the image of a United America so popular after 9/11 rapidly breaks down with the images of Katrina's aftermath--exposing the US as a country deeply marked by the divisions of race and class. And while sayings like "United We Stand" affirm the need for people to come together in crisis to ensure the survival of our communities and nation, we also know that this discourse is used to silence dissent and to stunt critical civic engagement in our nation's democratic processes. In 2004 we had a presidential election that seemed to highlight the deep political divisions within our country (marked by blue states and red states), and closer to home within Washington state, a divisive governor's race.

AUGUST 17: CANDLELIGHT VIGIL AT THE HERITAGE PARK FOUNTAIN IN SUPPORT OF CINDY SHEEHAN

PHOTO BY SCOTT YOOS

> Here in Olympia, I am glad to be part of a community that recognizes its connections to the international community.

In Washington state, we also have an economy that is heavily dependent on the military, with military industries such as Boeing, which aside from 747s, produces "smart" bombs, F-15 fighters, and Apache helicopters, and in 2004 alone had $17 billion in military contracts. Here in the Northwest, we also harbor extensive weapons of mass destruction, from Trident subs based at Bangor to the biological and chemical weapons stored at Umatilla. Our Northwest landscape supports numerous military bases from Bremerton to nearby Fort Lewis, which borders on our relatively liberal city of Olympia and its environs. In the past four years, many of us have found it increasingly difficult to speak to each other across the divides—marked by political, economic, and ideological interests, as well as our often differing visions for our nation's future, its relationship to the democratic process and to the global community. But we have also seen moments where these divisions are breaking down.

On August 31, the Olympia headlines and news briefs suggest some of the links between the chaos in Katrina's wake, rising rates of US poverty, and the war in Iraq. "We've lost our city"—reads a tragic statement by the former mayor of New Orleans. "Poverty up in nation," reads an adjacent headline, noting that 1.1 million more Americans lived in poverty in 2004. In fact, an estimated 13 million American children went hungry at some point last year. Then the next headline: "US drops bombs," which

▸ **After 9/11** *continued on page 13*

The Community Values Ordinance:

Holding Wal-Mart Accountable to Community Values and Vision

Many local people want a healthy local economy in which hard-working people, operating within a free market, can succeed. They want good jobs paying a living wage and providing health-care benefits. They do not want companies to violate environmental or labor laws or to infringe on employees' and customers' civil rights. Further, they like, and want to support, local and independent family-owned businesses. They believe in democracy: a system in which those affected by the rules make the rules. They believe in the right of self determination: a community's right to decide what it will look like in 50 years, not in the right of some large corporation to come in and make these decisions for them. These are our values -- our community values.

The Community Values Ordinance, introduced in Olympia and Tumwater, is all about achieving these values and achieving a democratic system of citizen self-determination. Under the ordinance, large corporations above a certain size threshold would be unable to obtain a local business license needed to enter or remain in the city if their demonstrated business practices are inconsistent with our values: supporting local independent businesses, good U.S. manufacturing jobs, thriving local economies, living family wages and fair worker treatment, and upholding labor and environmental laws and citizen civil rights.

> Most communities do not fight Wal-Mart due to traffic impacts; they fight because Wal-Mart's business practices are in extreme conflict with the community's values.

The ordinance creates a community values report card to score businesses to determine if they meet our minimum standards and community values. The corporation must complete a questionnaire that is plugged into the report card. If a passing score is achieved, the license is granted. If not, the company would either be denied the opportunity to locate here or, if already here, forced to leave town The program's administrative expense would be paid for by the corporations through a fee structure. In addition, a citizen-suit provision would allow local citizens to assure their ordinance is being properly administered.

A perfect example of the kind of corporation the CVO will target is Wal-Mart. In contrast to locally-owned businesses, having owners that live in and value the community from which they profit, Wal-Mart has a net balance of zero values. It possesses one singular goal … to make money. By design, corporations like Wal-Mart are money-making machines, accountable solely to shareholders. They are not accountable to their workers, the environment, local economies, or communities. The nationally embraced corporate governance principle of "shareholder primacy" ensures this; company managers must focus on maximizing shareholder profit, regardless of the societal costs (envi-

▸ **CVO: Wal-Mart** *continued on page 12*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, WA. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the ***Works In Progress*** and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in ***Works In Progress****, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to wip@zhonka.net or mail to ***Works In Progress***, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool:

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* ***WIP*** *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* ***WIP*** *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell
Chelsea Chase
Sebastian Chase
Renee Cruickshank
Christian DesMarets
Drew Hendricks
Teresa Jennings
David Lavender
Sandy Mayes
Phan Nguyen
hali panneton
Melissa Roberts
Sylvia Smith
Jeff Sowers
Pat Tassoni

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. ***Works In Progress*** is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed ***WIP***'s below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. ***WIP*** is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

Nikki Miller, one of the key organizers of the Sept.23 Oly to Ft. Lewis march, speaking to the media. *Photo by Zoltan Grossman*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
October 21

PO Box 295 • Olympia WA 98507
wip@zhonka.net • www.olywa.net/wip

Advertising Info

***WIP* Ads**

705-1971

Inch Rate $9
Business Card. . . . . $30 *
5" x 5" $144

4 Months for the price of 3

Special Non-Profit Rates

Only You Can Keep Works in Progress Going for another 15 Years

Subscriptions: ❑ *Individual—$35*
❑ *Low-Income—$15*
❑ *Please do not mail, I'll pick it up!*

Support Progressive Journalism

If the corporations aren't paying for it, then you have to!

Name

Address

City *State* *Zip*

Send to: Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

Announcements

The Olympia Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Film Series

The Olympia Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Film Series offers thought provoking films and documentaries on issues ranging from civil liberties protection, to the creation of a true democracy, to human rights, to environmental policy. These movies are followed by time for discussion for those seeking ways to learn more or take action.

Showing October 2, 2005, at 4pm:

"Children Underground". This Oscar-nominated documentary explores the tragic policy decision by Romanian dictator Nicolei Ceaucescu to outlaw contraceptives and encourage his impoverished populace to have more children. Thousands of children were born to broken or dysfunctional families in a nation mired in political and economic instability, resulting in a large and rapidly growing population of homeless children (more than 20,000 estimated) in the city of Bucharest.

All films are free and are shown at the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation, located at 2200 East End St NW in Olympia.

For information on these and other activities, go to www.olyuu.org or contact socialjustice@olyuu.org .

WROC Volunteer Meeting

Wednesdays at 1:30
WROC office, 701 Franklin Street SE
In the Payne Room of the First Christian Church
360-352-9716 866-343-9716 (toll free)
wrocoly@wroc.org wroc.org

WROC Night Out

Monday, October 3rd
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE
Potluck 5:30 pm
6-8 pm Make a Public Service Announcement!
Join us to be an actor or stage crew in a scripted announcement for WROC that will play on local television and radio stations. Be a WROC Star!
On-site childcare provided.

Know Your Rights Workshop

Tuesday, October 4th 1 – 3 pm
Family Support Center
108 State Avenue

Radical Tease: a Benefit for Local Community Groups

Oct. 8th 7pm at Yes Yes 320 4th Ave. in downtown Olympia

Radical Tease is a fashion show featuring local recycle designers... those that repurpose old clothes into new fashions. It's coming Saturday, October 8th, 7PM at the Yes Yes Alliance on 4th ave in downtown.
All clothes in the show will be auctioned after the show to raise money for a variety of local non-profits. Tickets are $4 and available at Traditions and Rainy Day starting Friday, September 23rd.
House and hip-hop DJs and dancing all night, after the runway show...
Write peter@cre8tives.org for more info or
call 352-7063 cre8tives.org/radical

Burma Human Rights Reading at Orca Books

Oct. 14: Olympia WA, 7:00 PM
Orca Books, 509 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA.

Portland activist **Edith Mirante** will read from her new book, "Down the Rat Hole: Adventures Underground on the Frontiers of Burma" which tells of her journeys **investigating human rights violations, environmental catastrophe, and the AIDS pandemic on Burma's borders with China, India, Laos and Bangladesh.**

Edith Mirante has roamed Southeast Asia for nearly two decades, collecting information on human rights and environmental issues. In 1986, she founded Project Maje, which distributes material on Burma's struggle for freedom. She has investigated abuse and resistance in some of the most remote corners of Burma's frontier war zone.

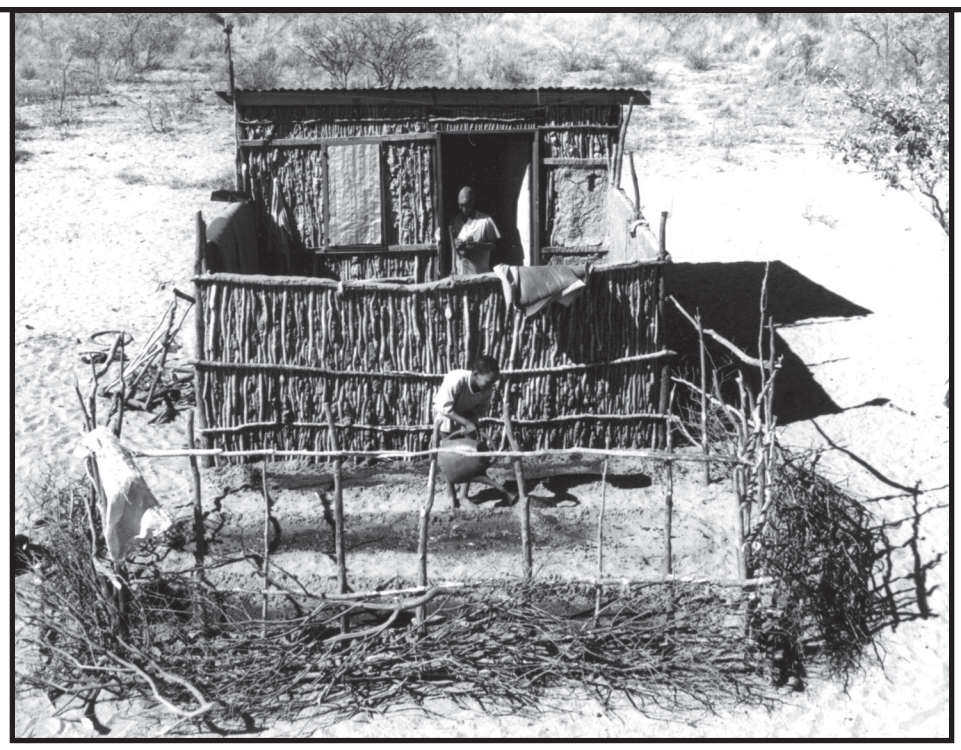
The author of the acclaimed "Burmese Looking Glass," Mirante has written chapters in several other books, as well as articles for encyclopedias, The New York Times, Asiaweek, Cultural Survival Quarterly, and Earth First Journal. She has testified on Burma before the US Congress, European Trade Commission, and the International Labor Organization. She was instrumental in organizing the campaign for corporate withdrawal from Burma. Her website, www.projectmaje.org was recently chosen as a link by the website of National Geographic, in connection with her report on the Sea Gypsies of Burma.

The event is cosponsored by Amnesty International Group 474.
For more information: 360-352-0123 or orca@orcabooks.com

▸ **Announcements** *continued on page 15*

October 2005

The Bushmen: genocide in the Kalahari



The Bushmen of the Central Kalahari have been forced off the land their nomadic ancestors have occupied for centuries. Few people have the skills to seek out food and water in the unforgiving landscape and fewer still would want to. But the Bushmen made an art of surviving in one of the harshest environments in the world. Now, in Botswana, the rumour of diamonds in the desert and the growth of upmarket tourism in the area mean that, as far as the government is concerned, the Bushmen's ancient presence is unwelcome and a unique form of human life is being eliminated.

This month, wildlife guards entered the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and reportedly threatened the 250 remaining members of the tribe at gunpoint, in an attempt to drive them out. Harassed, intimidated and vilified since the mid-nineties, the few remaining Bushmen are now reduced to a last, defiant stand.

Their expulsion is a tale of state-sponsored greed which has led to a catastrophic social experiment. Hundreds of uprooted Bushmen are now scattered across specially-created settlements outside the Kalahari Game Reserve where they have fallen prey to alcoholism and many women have become involved in prostitution. Contact with urban Botswana, which once had the highest incidence of Aids in the world, has also led to a steep rise in HIV infection rates.

In 1961, when Botswana's British colonial rulers created the 20,386 square mile Game Reserve, the 5,000 or so Bushmen who lived there were given the right to remain in perpetuity. The Bushmen had been persecuted by Afrikaaner farmers and the cattle-rearing Tswana tribes. The Game Reserve was meant to protect the few thousand who remained.

But instead of protecting them, the Botswana government has been determined to break up their way of life. For the Game Reserve has proved to be crucial for two of Botswana's main income generators: tourism and diamond mining.

The government of Botswana insists it has to move the Kalahari Bushmen to provide proper social services to the community. In the desert, they say, the Bushmen live without access to medical care or schools. It also claims that it does not have the resources to provide boreholes for the Bushmen inside the reserve.

The government's claims about not being able to afford boreholes inside the reserve ring hollow, considering that in 2002, they cut off existing water supplies, and now actually have to pump water from inside the game reserve to the settlement towns on the borders.

Over this summer, the government has placed armed guards around the reserve boundaries to stop the Bushmen returning home, and arrested several Bushmen for hunting. Lawyers and journalists have been forbidden to go into the reserve to talk with the few Bushmen who remain.

-- Thomson Dialog: *NewsEdge*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Bushman leaders arrested on 24 September were beaten in custody by policemen. They were arrested as they attempted to transport water and food to their relatives in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. Police threw teargas and fired shots at the Bushmen. One Bushman was shot in the jaw and is understood to be seriously hurt. The Bushmen were unarmed. A spokesman said, 'No matter what they do to us we will keep on peacefully fighting for our land rights.' -- Survival International					**1** 2004: Fox accidentally posts fake story quoting John Kerry, "I'm metrosexual—he's a cowboy."
2 2004: Haitians protesting the ouster of President Aristide continue rioting for the third straight day	**3** 2003: Colombian rebels claim responsibility for downing State Dept plane fumigating cocaine crops	**4** 1937: Hugo Black, admitted former member of the KKK, takes seat on US Supreme Court	**5** 2004: National poll reveals one in four Americans holds a negative stereotype of Muslims	**6** 1998: Report published in Pediatrics claims children top source of vitamins and minerals is breakfast cereal	**7** 2004: Cheney and Bush concede that Saddam Hussein didn't have any weapons of mass destruction	**8** 2004: Transportation Security Admin. says there are no firm rules for deciding who is placed on no-fly list
9 1999: Boeing executive warns Washington to become more friendly or Boeing may take its business elsewhere	**10** 10, 2002: Congress gives Bush authority to attack Iraq: Murray-no; Cantwell-yes; Baird-no; Smith-yes	**11** 1954: United States Civil Service has fired 2,600 since August under Communist Control Act	**12** 1913: Alaska: Russian czar lays claims to land at 81 N. Lat., 104 E. long., and calls it Nicholas II Land	**13** 1987: Gloved police arrest 600 in protest at US Supreme Court against decision upholding Georgia sodomy law	**14** 2004: UN harshly criticizes Israel for human rights violations and "wanton destruction" of Palestinian homes	**15** 2004: Federal judge strikes down snowmobile ban in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks
16 1967: Joan Baez arrested at anti-draft rally. She sings for reporters, is arrested for disturbing the peace	**17** 2004: Kerry accuses Bush of having secret plan to overhaul Social Security System starting in January 2006	**18** 2004: Bush accuses Kerry of "shameless scare tactics" Social Security just before voters go to the polls	**19** 1920: New York judge rules membership in Communist Party sufficient grounds for deportation	**20** 1930: British Passfield White Paper asks for halt in Jewish immigration to Palestine to curb Arab unemployment	**21** 2002: G.W. Bush says he'll try diplomacy with Hussein but doesn't believe he will disarm (duh!)	**22** 2004: More than 800 former soldiers have failed to comply with Army orders to report back for duty in Iraq
23 2003: Military sources say Yee inquiry began after confrontations over treatment of Guantanamo prisoners	**24** 2004: Air Force has a dramatic rise in suicides from 10.2% in 2003 to 15.4% this year: 43 w/ 10 in Sept alone	**25** 2004: Cuba announces beginning November 10 it will no longer accept US dollars at its businesses and stores	**26** 1868: White terrorists kill blacks near New Orleans 1983: Reagan bars reporters from Grenada	**27** 2004: Yasser Arafat collapses and loses consciousness for 10 minutes; Sharon to allow treatment abroad	**28** 2004: Arafat is flown from West Bank to Paris; he has been too weak to stand and unable to hold down food	**29** 2004: Germany expands the rights of same-sex couples allowing them to adopt each other's children
30 1954: Havana: Ramon Grau San Martin quits the presidential race, charging Batista of rigging the vote	**31** 2003: Israel bans young West Bank Palestinians from entering Jerusalem during the holy month of Ramadan	A group of Americans probing allegations of repression in the reserve, including the Chair of Human Rights Watch, report they were followed, questioned, intimidated and harassed for three days by Wildlife Department officials, and finally escorted out of the reserve by armed guards. -- Survival International				

Local advocates want homeless treated same as evacuees

Pat Tassoni

Poverty is a form of violence. It is a result of inequality rather than a proof of inequality... The existence of poverty in the United States should not be accepted as a necessary evil or an insoluble problem, but should be considered a crisis requiring emergency measures. It is a matter of will and priorities, not a matter of resources.

- Martin Luther King, Jr

In an area that lacks the capacity to take care of its own chronically homeless, low-income advocates are worried that Katrina disaster relief is going to tear a wide hole in the marginal safety net that exists for Olympia's vulnerable population. The evacuees are going to impact the old homeless infrastructure because there isn't any excess capacity. Olympia just barely addresses the current homeless needs.

What is being done to accommodate the influx of people relocated from New Orleans is in sharp contrast to the inadequate services and facilities available to local homeless people. For the evacuees, plans are in the works to find jobs and regular housing, albeit temporary, but such services for local homeless people are not nearly as centrally organized or funded.

The city's and community's response to hurricane survivors should be used as a model for helping all homeless residents. This catastrophe raises the level of consciousness about what is needed to take care of the homeless. Seeing all these new homeless, shows us what needs to be done for our own homeless who live in a daily state of constant crisis.

The creation of new resources to take care of the evacuees is the kind of help one would hope for in terms of emergency and transitional housing for the homeless. Setting up massive temporary housing is an option that should be explored for the area's regular homeless population.

In the Olympia City Town Hall meeting in January 2005, "Homelessness" was identified by citizen participants more than most other issues. Yet it didn't even make the City Council's list of priorities that included tourism and a parking garage.

Low-income advocates have been lobbying the city to fund a centrally located day use shelter that would function as a resource to the homeless and provide day care for homeless children. They have also been pushing for more affordable housing to transition the homeless into housing. Funding for these programs could come from existing city budgets. It could start as a one-time source and then permanent funding would have to be found. It could begin a regular series of new programs for the region's 10-year plan to curb chronic homelessness and hunger -- something that was a great concern among advocates before Hurricane Katrina was even a tropical storm.

The creation of new resources to take care of the evacuees is the kind of help one would hope for in terms of emergency and transitional housing for the homeless.

The local jurisdictions should also relax enforcement of ordinances that target the homeless such as sleeping in public. Bringing in folks who have suffered such upheaval of any kind and are in a state of post-traumatic stress, should not be further insulted through criminalization.

Our current local homeless population has stories of displacement that individually originate in natural disasters and marketplace failings that should be sympathized with and addressed just as seriously as the mass displacements due to Katrina. It is a lack of political will and not a matter of resources that we don't.

Purging the Poor

by Naomi Klein

Outside the 2,000-bed temporary shelter in Baton Rouge's River Center, a Church of Scientology band is performing a version of Bill Withers's classic "Use Me"--a refreshingly honest choice. "If it feels this good getting used," the Scientology singer belts out, "just keep on using me until you use me up."

Ten-year-old Nyler, lying face down on a massage table, has pretty much the same attitude. She is not quite sure why the nice lady in the yellow SCIENTOLOGY VOLUNTEER MINISTER T-shirt wants to rub her back, but "it feels so good," she tells me, so who really cares? I ask Nyler if this is her first massage. "Assist!" hisses the volunteer minister, correcting my Scientology lingo. Nyler shakes her head no; since fleeing New Orleans after a tree fell on her house, she has visited this tent many times, becoming something of an assistaholic. "I have nerves," she explains in a blissed-out massage voice. "I have what you call nervousness."

Wearing a donated pink T-shirt with an age-inappropriate slogan ("It's the hidden little Tiki spot where the island boys are hot, hot, hot"), Nyler tells me what she is nervous about. "I think New Orleans might not ever get fixed back." "Why not?" I ask, a little surprised to be discussing reconstruction politics with a preteen in pigtails. "Because the people who know how to fix broken houses are all gone."

I don't have the heart to tell Nyler that I suspect she is on to something; that many of the African-American workers from her neighborhood may never be welcomed back to rebuild their city. An hour earlier I had interviewed New Orleans' top corporate lobbyist, Mark Drennen. As president and CEO of Greater New Orleans Inc., Drennen was in an expansive mood, pumped up by signs from Washington that the corporations he represents--everything from Chevron to Liberty Bank to Coca-Cola--were about to receive a package of tax breaks, subsidies and relaxed regulations so generous it would make the job of a lobbyist virtually obsolete.

Roughly 70,000 of New Orleans' poorest homeless evacuees could move back to the city alongside returning white homeowners, without a single new structure being built.

Listening to Drennen enthuse about the opportunities opened up by the storm, I was struck by his reference to African-Americans in New Orleans as "the minority community." At 67 percent of the population, they are in fact the clear majority, while whites like Drennen make up just 27 percent. It was no doubt a simple verbal slip, but I couldn't help feeling that it was also a glimpse into the desired demographics of the new-and-improved city being imagined by its white elite, one that won't have much room for Nyler or her neighbors who know how to fix houses. "I honestly don't know and I don't think anyone knows how they are going to fit in," Drennen said of the city's unemployed.

New Orleans is already displaying signs of a demographic shift so dramatic that some evacuees describe it as "ethnic cleansing." Before Mayor Ray Nagin called for a second evacuation, the people streaming back into dry areas were mostly white, while those with no homes to return to are overwhelmingly black. This, we are assured, is not a conspiracy; it's simple geography--a reflection of the fact that wealth in New Orleans buys altitude. That means that the driest areas are the whitest (the French Quarter is 90 percent white; the Garden District, 89 percent; Audubon, 86 percent; neighboring Jefferson Parish, where people were also allowed to return, 65 percent). Some dry areas, like Algiers, did have large low-income African-American populations before the storm, but in all the billions for reconstruction, there is no budget for transportation back from the far-flung shelters where those residents ended up. So even when resettlement is permitted, many may not be able to return.

As for the hundreds of thousands of residents whose low-lying homes and housing projects were destroyed by the flood, Drennen points out that many of those neighborhoods were dysfunctional to begin with. He says the city now has an opportunity for "twenty-first-century thinking": Rather than rebuild ghettos, New Orleans should be resettled with "mixed income" housing, with rich and poor, black and white living side by side.

What Drennen doesn't say is that this kind of urban integration could happen tomorrow, on a massive scale. Roughly 70,000 of New Orleans' poorest homeless evacuees could move back to the city alongside returning white homeowners, without a single new structure being built. Take the Lower Garden District, where Drennen himself lives. It has a surprisingly high vacancy rate--17.4 percent, according to the 2000 Census. At that time 702 housing units stood vacant, and since the market hasn't improved and the district was barely flooded, they are presumably still there and still vacant. It's much the same in the other dry areas: With landlords preferring to board up apartments rather than lower rents, the French Quarter has been half-empty for years, with a vacancy rate of 37 percent.

The citywide numbers are staggering: In the areas that sustained only minor damage and are on the mayor's repopulation list, there are at least 11,600 empty apartments and houses. If Jefferson Parish is included, that number soars to 23,270. With three people in each unit, that means homes could be found for roughly 70,000 evacuees. With the number of permanently homeless city

▸ **Purging** *continued on page 15*

Chavez's Surprise for Bush

Offering to Sell Cheap Oil to America's Poor

by Juan Gonzalez

Worried about the skyrocketing cost of gasoline and heating oil this winter? Well, Hugo Chavez, the firebrand president of oil-rich Venezuela, wants to help.

Chavez, a former army officer twice elected president in huge landslides, has become a target of the Bush administration for his radical social policies. Last month, right-wing evangelist Pat Robertson openly urged his assassination. But now Chavez is firing back at Bush and Robertson with a surprise weapon - cheap oil for America's poor.

In an exclusive interview yesterday, the Venezuelan leader said his country will soon start to ship heating oil and diesel fuel at below market prices to poor communities and schools in the United States. "We will begin with a pilot project in Chicago on Oct. 14, in a Mexican-American community," said Chavez, who was in town for the United Nations sessions. "We will then expand the program to New York and Boston in November."

The first New York neighborhood in the program will be the South Bronx, where Chavez was to speak today as a guest of Rep. Jose Serrano. The Venezuelan leader revealed details of the new oil-for-the-poor program during a wide-ranging interview at the Upper East Side home of his country's UN ambassador. "If you want to eliminate poverty, you have to empower the poor, not treat them as beggars," Chavez said.

> "If you want to eliminate poverty, you have to empower the poor, not treat them as beggars," Chavez said.

During the hour-long interview, he also blasted the Iraq war; accused Bush of trying to kill him to reassert U.S. control over Venezuela's oil; offered support for the victims of Hurricane Katrina; and lampooned the UN as out of touch with the world's poor. Echoing his favorite American writer, radical linguist Noam Chomsky, Chavez warned that "Americans must reorder their style of life" because "this planet cannot sustain" our "irrational" consumption, especially when it comes to oil.

"Bring me his head ... "

Much of what Chavez said he has expressed before. But his novel oil-for-the-poor idea in this country is sure to make him an even bigger target of the Bush administration. Those who scoff at this as a publicity scam should think twice. With the price of oil at record levels, the Chavez government is swimming in cash. Those sky-high fuel prices are bound to have a drastic impact on low-income neighborhoods here, especially since Congress redirected much of this winter's usual energy assistance program for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Venezuela, on the other hand, owns a key U.S. subsidiary called Citgo Petroleum Corp., which has 14,000 gas stations and owns eight oil refineries in this country, none of which was damaged by Katrina.

Chavez said he can afford to sharply reduce Citgo's prices by "cutting out the middle man." His plan is to set aside 10% of the 800,000 barrels of oil produced by the Citgo refineries and ship that oil directly to schools, religious organizations and nonprofits in poor communities for distribution. The same approach, he said, has worked in the Caribbean, where Venezuela is already sharply subsidizing oil deliveries to more than a dozen nations.

Hugo Chavez

Cutting oil prices must seem like the worst sort of radicalism to the Big Oil companies and their buddies at the Bush-Cheney White House. But ordinary Americans fed up with price gouging by these energy companies could begin to look at Chavez in a different light if his oil-for-the-poor project works.

Still, Chavez, warns, we must all think about the future. Americans are 5% of the world's population, yet we consume 25% of the world's oil. On his drive from Kennedy Airport to Manhattan this week, Chavez noted, "Out of every 100 cars I saw on the road, 99 had only one person in the car. "These people were using up fuel," he said. "They were polluting the environment. This planet cannot sustain that mode of life."

That's the kind of message that can get a man killed these days - or at least labeled a dangerous madman by folks in the White House.

Published on September 18, 2005 by the New York Daily News.. *Juan Gonzales writes for the* NY Daily News *and co-hosts* Democracy Now! *with Amy Goodman.*

Keep *Democracy Now!* On TCTV

Sandia Slaby
Media Island - TCTV Liaison

A new year is upon us (October 4th on the Jewish calendar), and another subscription is needing to be paid.

2006 will mark the 4th consecutive year in which Media Island (MI) will have sponsored Democracy Now! on TCTV by paying the yearly subscription fee for the dish network hook-up which makes Democracy Now! available to more than 50,000 cable-subscribing households in Thurston County.

We are now once again asking for financial contributions from the community to continue making this collaborative project possible. Over the past 3 years, a small number of groups, individuals and businesses have contributed the money needed.

We currently have a small balance from that which was donated last year for this project. For the upcoming year we only need an additional $398 toward the total subscription fee of $443.88. (Any funds collected beyond that are held over for this specific use for the following year, as we see this relationship continuing from year to year.)

Democracy Now! airs on TCTV channels 22 and/or 29 at 5 AM and 4 PM

Help us keep Democracy Now! on our local access TV station by donating whatever amount you can afford. Mail checks to Media Island, PO BOX 7204, Olympia, WA. 98507, with "Democracy Now!" on the subject line.

Media Island, a non-profit organization in Olympia, is a resource and networking center for groups and individuals working for social justice.

Amy Goodman, DN! Host

Join the BUY-cott!

Buy Your Gas at Citgo (7 Eleven)

Citgo is a U.S. refining and marketing firm that is a wholly owned subsidiary of Venezuela's state-owned oil company. Money you pay to Citgo goes primarily to Venezuela -- not Saudi Arabia or the Middle East. There are 14,000 Citgo gas stations in the US. By buying your gasoline at Citgo, you are contributing to the billions of dollars that Venezuela's democratic government is using to provide health care, literacy and education, and subsidized food for the majority of Venezuelans.

Local Citgo (7 Eleven) stations:

7 Eleven
3541 Martin Way East
Olympia, WA 98506
(360) 459-0754

7 Eleven
6125 Pacific Avenue
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 456-3711

7 Eleven
1022 Crosby Blvd SW
Tumwater, WA 98501
(360) 570-0079

Stop the war!

The following is an edited version of a speech delivered by Peter Bohmer on 9/23/2005 at Latrati Park in Dupont. Bohmer, along with Nikki Miller, was a key organizer of the march from Olympia - and rally at the gates of Fort Lewis. The event was sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace

www.omjp.org

We are here to protest war and tell people around the world that we oppose this immoral and illegal war. We are part of a renewed growth of activism against this war and for economic and social justice at home.

We are in a crucial period of opportunity to make a difference. Prior the invasion of Iraq there was there was massive resistance; on 2/15/2003, ten million people world-wide took to the streets. Since then, there has been some decline in activism in the U.S. and around the world, a lot of despair - partly tied to the re-election of Bush. Also, some have accepted the rhetoric that if we oppose the war we are against the U.S. soldiers in Iraq. The shameful Democratic Party complicity with the war also has fueled defeatism; few major politicians speak out against the war.

Yet, we need to be long-distance runners not sprinters for peace and justice.

One reason that has held many of us back from speaking up and organizing for U.S. withdrawal from Iraq is the feeling we have no answer to what happens if the U.S. withdraws—will it be worse for the Iraqi people? Will it be civil war.?

At the very least we can say that life in Iraq has not improved for the vast majority of people—less electricity, water, worse sanitation, far fewer jobs than before the most recent war; and the U.S. led sanctions from 1991 to 2003 had already caused a heavy toll in lives and in the quality of life for the Iraqi people.

The U.S. should totally withdraw from Iraq; it is an occupying army. We must build a bigger movement in the U.S. renouncing of all U.S. military bases and calling for all U.S. troops to leave. The U.S. should pay money for the destruction it has caused. These funds should be administered through the UN, not Halliburton and the U.S. government. Iraqis have the right to control their economy and resources, not private U.S. companies.

We demand that the U.S. begin troop withdrawal now and complete it in a short and definite time period. If most of the groups in Iraq, the Iraqi people, want peacekeepers—they should come from the UN or Arab League, not the U.S.

What about blood bath - civil war - if the U.S. withdraws from Iraq? Iraq is closer to this than two years ago. The longer we stay, the greater the likelihood that Sunnis will have no power in current system. And sectarian violence is increasing. If the U.S. left, various groups will have to negotiate a settlement, including most of the various groups fighting the U.S., trade unions, students, various organizations and political parties organized along religious and other lines. The groups targeting and killing civilians solely because of Shia or Sunni identity, would be isolated.

It won't be peace and justice when the U.S. is forced to withdraw but the current situation is horrible for Iraqis, and is getting worse. The U.S. wants to control Iraq, not set up a democratic Iraq. The sooner is the U.S. withdrawal, the greater the possibility that peace can come to Iraq. Given U.S. objectives and its history of foreign interventions, the continuing U.S. occupation of Iraq can only be part of the problem, not part of the solution. We need to build a massive and militant movement so that this position becomes a possibility and then a reality.

We are protesting today and are here today to say, *No more Iraqis lives destroyed, no more U.S. lives destroyed in our name!*

For the U.S., the costs of this war are huge: almost 2000 soldiers dead, 10 times that many wounded physically for life; many times that many with mental scars for life because of what they have seen and been part of … for being occupiers.

This is in addition to the lifetime suffering and cancer caused by depleted uranium (DU) and the 50% or more who will come back from Iraq with PTSD. The human costs to Iraqis are far greater; we must protest against all casualties - Iraqis and U.S. - from this murderous war.

To support the troops and the Iraqis means calling for U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. To say nothing more than "support the troops" means not thinking about and counting Iraqi lives.

We are not more secure by the U.S. occupation of Iraq; Iraq was not the source of 9/11. The U.S. occupation of Iraq has increased the number of people who belong to groups such as those that carried out 9/11, making us less safe not more safe as Bush claims.

250 billion dollars and counting have been spent on this war by the U.S., with cuts in social programs such as Medicaid, less funding for college scholarships, less for anti-poverty programs and public housing, and reductions in spending for maintaining and repairing the physical infrastructure of this country - like the levees that collapsed when Katrina hit almost three weeks ago.

This government claims to support the troops and they do so in rhetoric as did George Bush senior in the first Gulf War.

In practice, the Administration sends U.S. troops to their death, encourages them to commit human rights violation like torture - beating detainees and holding people indefinitely. Also, the soldiers will come back to an unequal U.S., where wealth is in fewer and fewer hands, where real wages are falling for the majority as the costs for college, health care, housing and energy are skyrocketing, whereas affirmative action and reproductive rights are under attack and only the wealthy get tax breaks. This is what the troops come home to and this will hurt them and their families. The administration does not support the troops. Supporting the troops does not only mean ending the war, it also means quality and affordable medical care, living wage jobs and more generally economic and social justice.

It means for the society as a whole and ourselves showing compassion and solidarity for the people of Iraq and Bolivia, in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast of the United States. The damage, destruction and death caused by Hurricane Katrina has fallen most heavily on people of low income, particularly low income black people—in a system where racial and economic inequality are woven into all institutions, in government policy, in the media, where one lives, jobs, and in the criminal justice system. The hurricane is a natural occurrence but its intensity and impact are furthered by global warming, cutbacks in public programs and racism. As rap artist Kanye West said on ABC TV after Katrina hit, "George Bush doesn't care about Black people."

We live in a country where low income people join the military and many of us do not fully see what the U.S. is doing in Iraq, or what is happening in the United States where the minimum wage in most places is $5.25 an hour and less and less jobs have health and retirement benefits, and two million people are in prison. . All human being deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. So let us speak up and act effectively against the war in the two Gulfs—in Iraq and in the war in the Gulf Coast in Louisiana and Mississippi--and against the war at home on immigrants, on poor and working people, on women, on most of those who join the military and their families and most of the American people.

The U.S. should totally withdraw from Iraq; it is an occupying army.

The U.S. should pay money for the destruction it has caused. These funds should be administered through the UN, not Halliburton and the U.S. government.

Our slogan is support the troops by U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. We come to Ft. Lewis not to blame the troops but to dialog with them and to target not the soldiers but Ft. Lewis which is a major institution in carrying out this war and a major part of the U.S. military-industrial complex. One cause of the end of the Vietnam War was the increasing opposition to the Vietnam War by U.S. soldiers, increasing numbers of whom who refused to fight and spoke up against the Vietnam War. Those in the military who resist are truly the bravest and most courageous. In Tacoma, in the early 1970's, there was a GI coffee house where GI's and anti-war activists hung out and talked. The time is ripe for this to happen again.

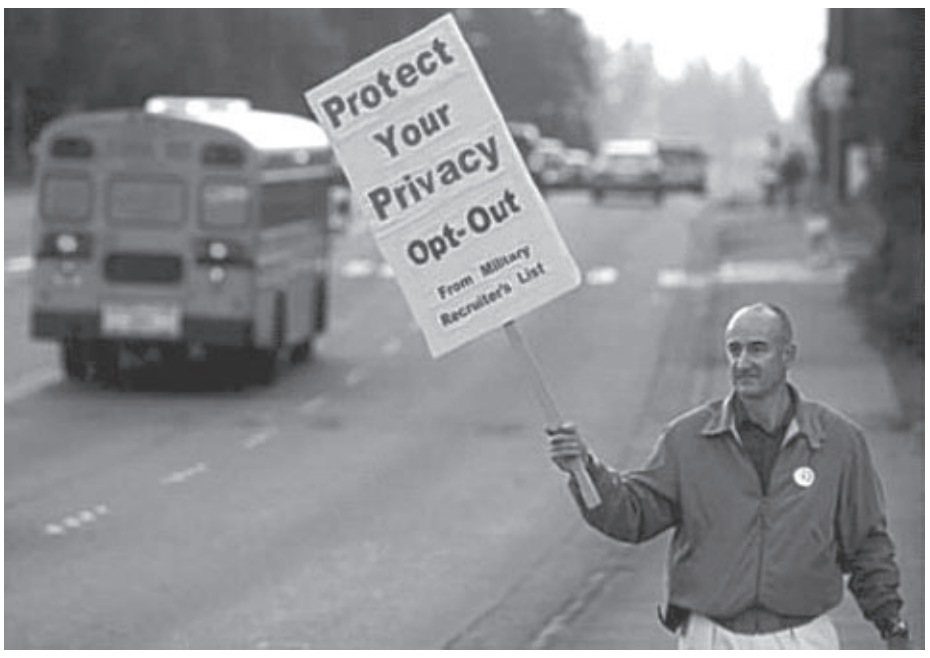
I think we have a real opportunity today to build a movement to get the U.S. out of Iraq. I mentioned earlier why a feeling of despair has gripped many who opposed the war in early 2003--the feeling of powerlessness.

There are improved possibilities today—the lies of those in power are becoming clearer to most people: that Iraq had WMD was a lie, that Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda were connected, that we are more safe because of the war in Iraq is a lie. There is declining support for the war and for the current administration. Hurricane

▸ **Stop the War** *continued on page 7*

Parents try to limit military recruiters:

An Edmonds father distributes do-not-contact forms



Parents try to limit military recruiters
An Edmonds father distributes do-not-contact forms

[Excerpted from an article by Eric Stevick and Melissa Slager, originally published on 9/15/2005, in the Everett Herald *]*

A growing number of Snohomish County parents are pointing the finger back at Uncle Sam, telling military recruiters they want them out of their mailboxes, off their phone lines and out of their kids' lives. "This is one simple issue," said Kurt Kutay, who stood on a sidewalk outside Meadowdale High School in Lynnwood, WA handing out forms to students that would remove their names from military recruiters' school rolls.

"Should our public schools turn over private contact information of minor children to military recruiters without explicit written permission from parents or the students themselves?" Kutay asked.

A federal education law passed four years ago says the answer is yes.

Schools have long given out student contact information to military recruiters, as do colleges and other groups. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 put teeth into the practice, requiring schools to release the names, addresses and phone numbers of juniors and seniors or risk losing federal aid.

Parents and students can request to have the information withheld. But many are only now becoming aware of the option, as public concern grows about the war in Iraq and as public schools refine their policies.

That information is up to districts, but typically includes names, addresses, phone numbers, class photos and other details.

The information is primarily used by school publications such as yearbooks and sports rosters. But outside organizations can also request the information.

Until recent years, if a parent or student wanted to opt out of a military recruiter's mailing list, they also were taken out of the yearbook. More schools now are differentiating between the various places information can be sent and used.

In the Edmonds School District, the paperwork is called a Do Not Release Directory Information Form. It includes a check box for the military, one for the media and one for everyone short of law enforcement.

Kutay and seven adults on Wednesday gave away 100 of the do-not-release forms and plan to take their campaign to other high schools today and next week.

They are part of a growing national movement trying to drive a wedge between recruiters and students. Since May, the San Francisco-based Leave My Child Alone coalition has provided 21,000 opt-out letters for parents nationwide to send to school superintendents.

"It's really gaining momentum," said Felicity Crush, a coalition spokeswoman.

The Monroe School District last year received about 300 requests to shield students' personal information, up from 24 or so in past years.

Meadowdale sophomore Tarek Kutay, 15, said he's glad his father and other parents are putting a spotlight on the issue.

"People know that the recruiters come, but they don't think about it that they could opt out," he said.

"No more Iraqi lives destroyed, no more U.S. lives destroyed in our name," Peter Bohmer

▸ **Stop the War** *from page 6*

Katrina has shown the incompetence and indifference to human life of an administration whose main concern is furthering corporate profits and the wealth of those who already have too much. 35% of the National Guard of Louisiana and Mississippi were in the other Gulf—they were not available for rescue efforts.

Spurred by the devastation of New Orleans and its people; there has been huge donation of money and materials and increased activism against poverty and racism —particularly in the black community

Another sign of renewed activism and hope is Cindy Sheehan. Hers is a compelling story. In August, 2005 she brought together concern for troops and strong anti-war stance. President Bush couldn't and wouldn't explain to her, why her son Casey died. She is calling for immediate withdrawal. She has inspired many people of all ages, primarily women, to become active against the war. She broke through feeling of powerlessness and that nothing could be done that many of us have felt. Her courage and voice is inspiring but she is not acting alone. She is part of a larger movement, groups such as Code Pink and Gold Star Mothers for Piece have played a central role in getting her voice out, organizing Camp Casey and the caravan to Washington, D.C.

So speak up to your friends and neighbors. Talk to people in the military and their families, organize a meeting in your home, write a letter to the newspaper, go into a high school and work with and tell students about alternatives to joining the military. Get your local church, neighborhood organization, group, union … to take a stand against the war. Join demonstrations against the war, organize one at the local recruiting station, at your Congressperson's or Senator's office, at a corporation benefiting from the war. Join an anti-war organization. Link the war to the many other social problems facing us.

Let us build an ongoing movement, not a one shot affair, to stop this war and build a society based on need not greed, it won't come from the Democrats or Republicans but from us.

Power to the People. Thank You!

2,000 People to Vigil in Olympia When U.S. Death Toll Reaches 2,000

U.S. military deaths in Iraq will soon reach 2,000. That's a lot of people! How many is it? Let's provide a compelling visible presence. Let's hold a 2,000-person vigil in Olympia when the death toll reaches the 2,000 mark. This will likely happen in mid-to-late October.

Planning is underway now. The current plan is to line both sides of 4th Ave and 5th Ave from the 4th and 5th Ave bridge areas flowing along those sidewalks through the western side of downtown. We'll line up single-file (not bunched together) along the sidewalks (keeping free all streets and driveways), spaced slightly apart to maximize the east-west extent of the visual image.

Every day the *Olympian*'s Section A tracks U.S. military deaths in a little box titled "The Toll." Watch this for the day when the U.S. death number reaches or crosses the 2,000 level. We'll hold the vigil on THE FOLLOWING DAY. The time and gathering locations are being determined now. Look for more publicity and details soon.

Imagine how powerful this would be! This would not be a "protest" in a negative sense, but rather a quiet, peaceful, somber memorial to the loss of life (Iraqi, American, and other) in war. Signs consistent with this peaceful spirit are invited. Signs reflecting sarcasm or other political matters are not. This event should be something that all people who mourn the loss of life in war will feel welcome and comfortable to join.

The planners are seeking endorsement from local organizations, help in publicizing this activity, and help in planning some details.

For more information contact Florence Vincent 360-446-1230 florence@northwestbarter.com .

VICS
PIZZERIA
360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

Before you forget…

Subscribe to *WIP*!

See page 2

US Army Whistleblowers Describe Routine, Severe Abuse

by Jim Lobe

As a military jury in Texas considers the fate of Lynndie England, the low-ranking reservist pictured in the notorious photos of the abuse of Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib prison in late 2003, two sergeants and a captain in one of the US Army's most decorated combat units have come forward with accounts of routine, systematic and often severe beatings committed against detainees at a base near Fallujah from 2003 through 2004.

According to their testimony, featured in a new reoport by Human Rights Watch (HRW), beatings and other forms of torture were often either ordered or approved by superior officers and took place on virtually a daily basis. The soldiers, all of whom had also been deployed to Afghanistan before coming to Iraq, testified that the same techniques were used in both countries.

The beatings were so severe that they resulted in broken bones "every other week" at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Mercury, where detainees would ordinarily be held for three or four days before being transferred to Abu Ghraib. In one case, an Army cook broke the leg of a detainee with a metal baseball bat, according to one of the sergeants quoted in the report, entitled "Leadership Failure".

Residents of Fallujah, an insurgent stronghold since the 2003 invasion, referred to the unit as "The Murderous Maniacs", because of their treatment of detainees, according to the report.

Although none of the three soldiers has been deployed to Iraq this year, they all said they believed that practices they witnessed at FOB Mercury continue, according to the report.

The three -- all active-duty members of the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the Army 82nd Airborne Division -- said that they had repeatedly sought guidance up the chain of command on the applicability of the Geneva Conventions or other rules to regarding the appropriate treatment of detainees in Iraq, but to no avail.

> The beatings and other abuses served mainly to relieve stress, according to the three soldiers. "On their day off people would show up all the time," said one sergeant.

The captain, referred to as "Officer C" in the report, said he had made persistent efforts over 17 months to raise concerns about the abuses and obtain clearer rules about the treatment of detainees but was consistently told by higher-ups to ignore abuses and to "consider your career".

"In many cases, he was encouraged to keep his concerns quiet; his brigade commander, for example, rebuffed him when he asked for an investigation into these allegations of abuse," according to the report. Only when he began taking his concerns to members of Congress, according to the report, did the Army agree to investigate his complaints.

However, "just days before the publication of this report he was told that he would not be granted a pass to meet on his day off with staff members of U.S. Senators John McCain and John Warner", who, along with two other Republican senators, have sponsored legislation that would require the Pentagon to abide by the Geneva Conventions and the Army Field Manual in its treatment of all detainees.

Their effort has so far been frustrated by opposition from the George W. Bush administration, notably Vice President Dick Cheney, who has personally lobbied against the provision, and the Republican leadership in Congress.

When the Abu Ghraib scandal broke nearly 18 months ago, the Bush administration claimed that only a handful of poorly trained reservists were responsible. But in the intervening months, hundreds of other cases of abuse in both Iraq and Afghanistan have come to light through the release of U.S. government documents, reports by the International Committee of the Red Cross, media reports, and detainee accounts.

While the Pentagon has initiated investigations, administrative hearings and, in a few cases, courts-martial, they have been confined mostly to low-ranking personnel, permitting the administration to claim that whatever abuses have taken place were isolated or spontaneous.

But the firsthand accounts by the three soldiers, according to HRW, "suggest that the mistreatment of prisoners by the U.S. military is even more widespread than has been acknowledged to date, including among troops belonging to some of the best trained, most decorated and highly respected units in the U.S. Army".

> " ...We heard rumors of PUCs dying so we were careful. We kept it to broken arms and legs and shit (like that)."

Suspected insurgents, according to the testimonies, were called PUCs, for "Persons Under Control," to distinguish them from prisoners of war, or POWs, a practice that first began in Afghanistan after the Pentagon announced that it did not consider detainees captured there subject to the protections afforded by the Geneva Conventions for POWs.

PUCs were held in tents at FOB Mercury that were surrounded by concertina wire and were routinely subjected to abusive techniques that included "smoking", which was normally ordered by Military Intelligence before interrogations and involved 12 to 24 hours of stress positions, sleep or liquid deprivation, and physical exercises sometimes to the point of unconsciousness, and "f**king", which referred to beating or torturing detainees severely.

Front-line and other soldiers were invited to take part in both practices, according to the report, while, if the detainees were injured as a result of the abuse, a physicians' assistant would administer an analgesic and sign off on a report stating that the injury took place during capture.

The beatings and other abuses served mainly to relieve stress, according to the three soldiers. "On their day off people would show up all the time," said one sergeant. "Everyone in camp knew if you wanted to work out your frustration you show up at the PUC tent. In a way it was sport."

The soldiers blamed the abuses in large part on the failure of civilian and military leaders to clarify what was and was not permitted, particularly in light of the administration's position that the Geneva Convention, in which the unit had been trained, did not apply to detainees captured in Afghanistan.

"We knew where the Geneva Conventions drew the line, but then you get that confusion when the (Secretary of Defence) and the president make that statement," said the captain. After the invasion of Iraq, "none of the unit policies changed. Iraq was cast as part of the war on terror, not a separate entity in and of itself but a part of a larger war."

"Leadership failed to provide clear guidance so we just developed it," said one of the sergeants. "They wanted intel (intelligence). As long as no PUCs came up dead it happened. We heard rumors of PUCs dying so we were careful. We kept it to broken arms and legs and shit (like that)."

The administration has strongly resisted calls by HRW and other rights groups, as well as Democrats and some Republicans, for the appointment of independent bipartisan commission to carry out a comprehensive investigation of detainee abuses, including the responsibility, if any, of senior military officers and government officials.

Civilians believed to have been Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officers had their own interrogation facilities at the base and at another known as FOB Tiger close to the Syrian border. They sometimes removed prisoners -- and all their records -- from the bases, apparently to eliminate evidence of their having been held there.

Commentary: The Maher Arar affair

A Man is Tortured and the U.S. shrugs

Editorial 9/2005
Mail andGlobe *(Canada)*

Regrets? Over the torture of one measly Canadian? No sir. Not the United States of America.

David Wilkins, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, was eye-poppingly cavalier when asked about the Maher Arar affair. Mr. Arar, a Canadian citizen, was deported by the United States to Syria, his birthplace, where he was held for 10 months in a cell three feet wide, six feet long and seven feet high. He is now back, and the Canadian government has been holding a lacerating public inquiry into its role, however limited, in his nightmare. The U.S. government has refused (under Mr. Wilkins's predecessor, Paul Cellucci) to participate in the inquiry.

As described by Canadian Press reporter Jim Brown, Mr. Wilkins "seemed puzzled" when asked if his government had regrets about the Arar affair. "You talking about regrets by the United States? The United States made that decision [to deport Arar] based on the facts it had, in the best interests of the people of the United States, and we stand behind it."

He said that the United States has to make "tough decisions," that the war on terror means "you don't get second chances," that there would probably be more deportations and that Canadians who hold dual citizenship should consider themselves forewarned they could find themselves in Mr. Arar's shoes some day.

About that "tough decision" to deport Mr. Arar to Syria: Mr. Arar was taken out in the middle of the night under police guard and put on an airplane. There had been an administrative hearing late on that Sunday night, but he had no lawyer present. He had no opportunity to make his case before a judge responsible both for screening the evidence against him (the United States suspected him of being an al-Qaeda agent) and weighing any risk he might have posed against the possibility that he would face torture in Syria. He had no chance for due process. Some decision.

Mr. Wilkins, who speaks on behalf of President George W. Bush, was criticized in this space yesterday for his comments dismissing concerns about U.S. guns finding their way to the streets of Toronto. Now he is similarly dismissive of the fate of a Canadian citizen shipped to a known torture state by his government. (If Mr. Arar is an al-Qaeda member, nothing that has emerged publicly has provided convincing evidence.) Mr. Wilkins evidently feels it is pointless to fret about due process in a dangerous time. What, us worry?

The Arar affair was a test case of civil liberties in a time of crisis. The usual safeguards of a democracy were tossed out the window, and an innocent man was crushed. In the world according to Mr. Wilkins, no one should despair if there are more Arars.

James Yee

October 17, 7:00 PM

St. Martin's Worthington Center
5300 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey, WA

Chaplain James "Yusuf" Yee will be speaking to promote the October release of his book, "For God and Country." Yee will speak on his arrest and imprisonment, as well as conditions of prisoners he ministered in Guantanamo Bay. A question and answer period will follow.

Special Guest Speaker: Gary Locke

Please join us for this remarkable event
Tickets: $10.00 general admission, $5:00 Students
All proceeds will benefit the Yee Legal Defense Fund

"Civil disobedience is not our problem. Our problem is civil obedience. Our problem is that people all over the world have obeyed the dictates of leaders and millions have been killed because of this obedience. Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world in the face of poverty and starvation and stupidity, and war, and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves [and] the grand thieves are running the country. That's our problem."

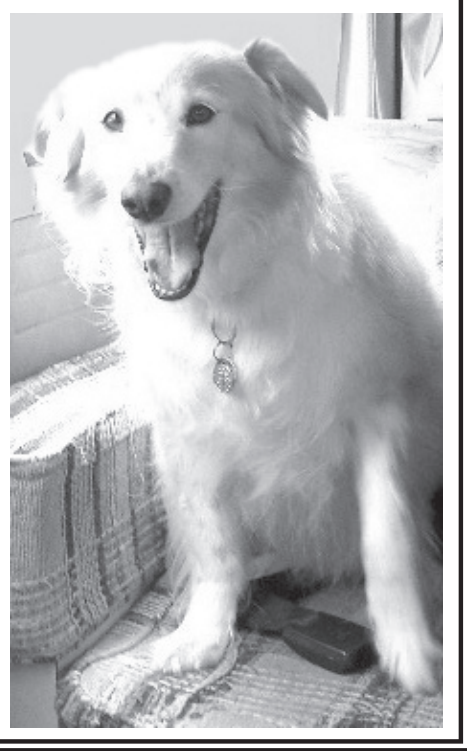
Howard Zinn, 1970

In memory of Sophie

You may have seen her downtown – her pom-pom fluff of a tail undulating behind her as she pranced alongside her mother-person. They might have been delivering stacks of WIPs, posting flyers, marching for peace and justice, or just heading to the park to play.

Most dogs are special to their people. Sophie was special to WIP for the sweet companionship and joy she brought to our friend hali.

She will be dearly missed.



Iraq official slams U.S. for detentions & immunity for troops

by Mariam Karouny and Alastair Macdonald

BAGHDAD - Iraq's justice minister has condemned the U.S. military for detaining thousands of Iraqis for long periods without charge and wants to change a U.N. resolution that gives foreign troops immunity from Iraqi law.

Speaking to Reuters, Justice Minister Abdul Hussein Shandal also criticized U.S. detentions of Iraqi journalists and said the media, contrary to U.S. policy in Iraq, must have special legal protection to report on all sides in the conflict.

"No citizen should be arrested without a court order," he said this week, complaining that U.S. suggestions that his ministry has an equal say on detentions were misleading.

> Iraqi officials voice frustration with U.S. and British vetoes on some requests for release, noting that Iraqis have been held for two years without charge to "gather intelligence."

"There is abuse (of human rights) due to detentions, which are overseen by the Multinational Force (MNF) and are not in the control of the justice ministry," said Shandal, a Shi'ite judge respected for standing up to Saddam Hussein on the rule of law.

Killings and unjustified arrests of Iraqi civilians by U.S. troops risked going unpunished, he said, because of U.N. Security Council resolution 1546, which granted U.S.-led forces sweeping powers following their overthrow of Saddam in 2003.

"The resolution ... gives immunity to the MNF and means taking no action against the MNF no matter what happens or whatever they do against the people of Iraq," Shandal said.

"We're hoping to make more efforts with the Security Council and the whole United Nations to end this resolution or amend it so that anyone who violates Iraqi law or assaults any citizen is held accountable," he said. "This is a matter of sovereignty."

He said he was pressing the occupying forces to speed up releases for some of the 10,000 Iraqis held at Abu Ghraib prison and elsewhere, often for many months without charge, on suspicion of aiding Sunni Arab insurgents.

Last month, 1,000 men were freed from Abu Ghraib, notorious under Saddam and under U.S. control since 2003, as Iraq's Shi'ite-led government and Washington tried to appease the once dominant Sunni minority. The United Nations said last week faster releases could promote Sunni acceptance of the new political system.

Iraqi officials voice frustration with U.S. and British vetoes on some requests for release, noting that Iraqis have been held for two years without charge to "gather intelligence."

Speaking of the Combined Review and Release Board (CRRB) which guarantees detainees a hearing every six months, Shandal said: "The representatives of the MNF in the committee have the rights and all the authority under the U.N. resolution."

Media Rights

Shandal said he was concerned about the U.S. military's refusal to accord special consideration to the media and at the number of journalists detained for many months by U.S. troops.

Among these are two cameramen for Reuters. One of them is Ali Omar Abrahem al-Mashhadani, who was ordered detained by the CRRB last month as a "threat to the people of Iraq." The military will not say what suspicions it has against him.

Asked to clarify the CRRB definition of "threat," Shandal said: "It's a catch-all term to portray this person as a threat to the nation and allow the other side to keep him in custody."

Asked if the government approved of such measures, which U.S. generals say they implement with Iraqi official support, he said: "I am a man of law and a judge and I respect human rights ... No citizen should be arrested without a court order."

Though the nature of their work brings journalists under suspicion from both sides, the U.S. command in Iraq refuses to consider special treatment for accredited reporters and says it will detain them under the same conditions as any other suspect.

Shandal, however, said journalists needed special protection and defended independent reporting from all sides, including from rebel-held areas. He insisted on journalists' right to film and interview Iraq's insurgents without fear of arrest or worse.

"In this time of conflict ... between terrorists and the army or Multinational Forces, the journalist comes to the fore.

"Full freedom should be given to journalists to take pictures and film in the field," he said. "Without images what would we know of history? ... We would know nothing."

Letter to WIP
From Mayor Foutch

Yeah, the job of Mayor of Olympia has its highs and lows, but being lampooned on the cover of Works In Progress has to be the pinnacle of any local politician's career. I loved it. You might have noticed a run at one of your newsstands; my wife Janet saw it first and grabbed extras for friends and relatives. That cover was a true work of art; hats off to Pat Tassoni who has a real eye for both irony and technical layout. It's truly one for the scrapbook. Thanks!

Now for some of the issues raised by the cover story:

First and most significant, what happened to the Nuclear Free Zone ordinance? Why were last minute changes made exempting the Federal government?

Up until the evening when the ordinance came before the Council for second reading, I have only the General Government Committee's meeting minutes and hearsay to go on as I was not directly involved in the Committee's work. But it seems to me that the Committee chose "Schedule" over "Substance." The key factor was our City legal office's lack of time to research implications of the proposed ordinance before the Committee's August public hearing date.

That date was significant because it would come immediately after the week of public activities noted in WIP's cover story. The legal office runs at full tilt most of the time, but last summer there were two attorney positions vacant and the City Attorney himself (who often works evenings and weekends under ordinary circumstances) had to take leave due to a family situation. The NFZ ordinance could not take priority over the many other time-constrained activities of the legal office; and the General Government Committee (rightly) declined staff's offer to contract out NFZ research at extra cost.

The basic purpose of a Council committee is to screen and shape complex issues so that they are ready for "prime time" when they come before the Council. In this case the Committee did not fulfill that basic responsibility. So the draft ordinance was sent to a public hearing with serious legal and implementation questions still up in the air.

Then, the week after first reading of the ordinance, the City Attorney was finally able to break free and do some online research and phone consultation with other cities. He reported his findings to the City Manager and the ordinance's Council proponents were briefed. Apparently they—no doubt reluctantly—agreed that changes had to be made, and an executive session was scheduled so that all councilmembers could understand the legal issues. When I came in for the executive session a modified draft ordinance was presented for Council review before the second reading on the Council meeting's Consent Calendar. The revised ordinance was going to be substituted for the version that had been available to the public, with no plan to let the public know.

As Mayor and chair of the meeting, I was concerned that the public was not aware of the modifications to the ordinance, but Executive Session is for legal issues only so we did not discuss "process" for second reading. That's why I announced at the beginning of the Council meeting that there was a new version, and that's one reason why I pulled it from the Consent Calendar for questions and further discussion. (Councilmembers Johnson and Mah told me after the meeting that they were ready to pull it if I hadn't; Councilmember Johnson also said he would have explained the situation further following the motion to pass, but Councilmember Hyer's unexpected formal Call For The Question, which was seconded, ended debate on the issue.)

So even though we tried our best, it's easy to understand why members of the audience that evening were asking themselves, "What just happened?" All this messy process, confusion and suspicion could have been avoided if the General Government Committee had delayed sending the draft NFZ ordinance to the full Council until all necessary research had been completed, even if that meant missing the end of the big week of antinuclear activities.

Second, my opposition to the NFZ ordinance, and my asking tough questions about its intent, shouldn't be interpreted as some Strangelovian fascination with nuclear weapons. In fact, it was I, not Councilmember Johnson, who drafted and presented the February 1 resolution to the Council, supporting the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the international Mayors for Peace position and calling for the "verifiable and enforceable" elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020. Council passed that resolution unanimously.

Where I (and, I believe, Councilmember Mah) parted company with the rest of the Council was committing the City's limited resources to an actual ordinance, which would cost money to enforce and might expose us to significant litigation. After the public hearing and also at first reading I asked questions about transportation, especially along Interstate 5 and along Plum Street and Marine Drive, which I recalled some years ago had been designated part of the National Highway System to obtain Federal funds for maintenance. (I still don't know the answer to those questions, but they were certainly germane if the City was to enforce the NFZ provisions as diligently as activists seemed to advocate at the public hearing.)

After the public hearing I also wanted to know whether the ordinance would apply to the USS OLYMPIA; Councilmember Johnson said it would not because the ordinance exempted nuclear power, although later in the discussion he indicated that he interpreted the Certification provision to apply to the Navy's "Neither confirm nor deny" policy.

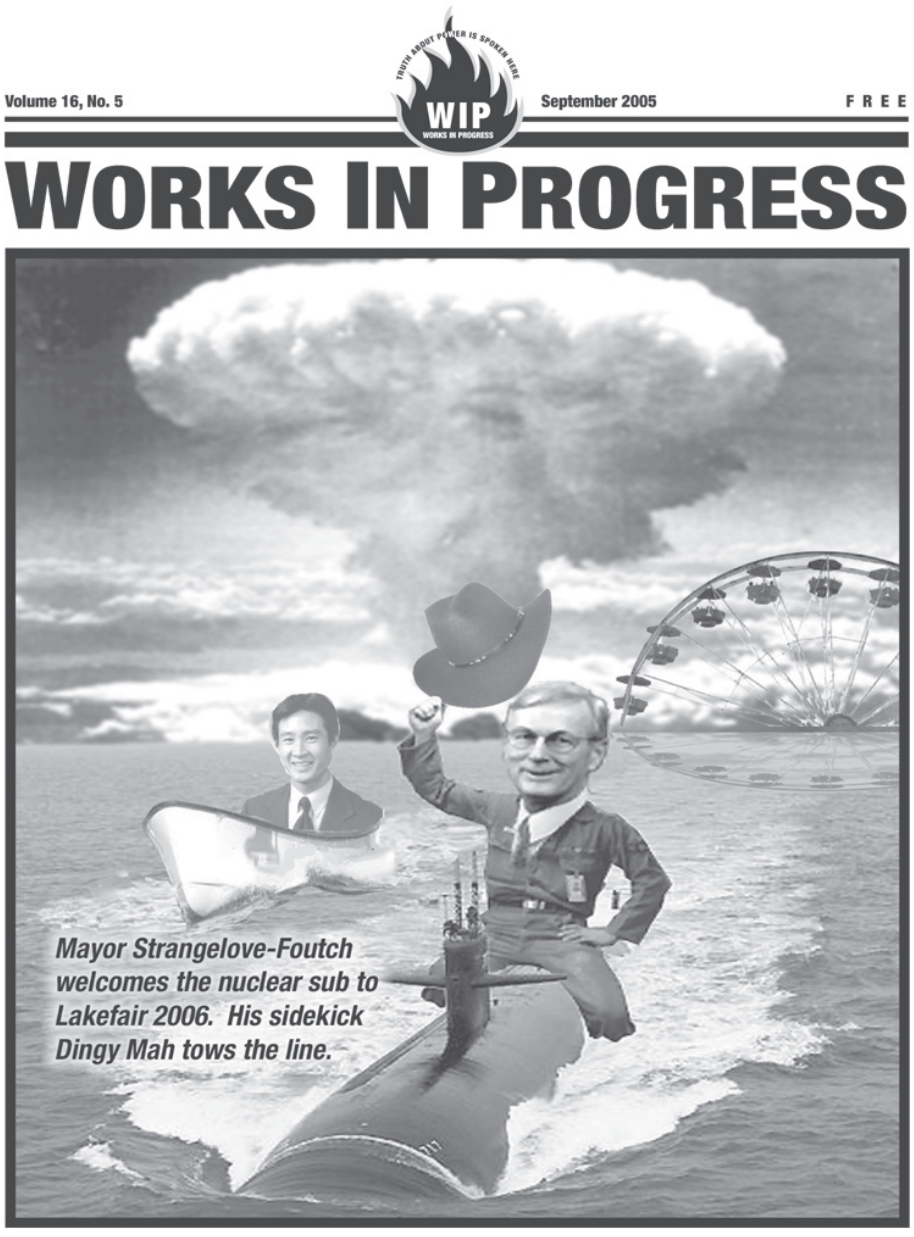
The following week, at first reading, I assumed the ordinance would pass. But I wanted to get three key policy questions answered on the public record so that Council, staff, and the public would all know what to expect when it went into effect: In the course of a long and detailed discussion, staff and Council agreed (and on September 13 Council adopted detailed minutes) that:

1. Staff would not seek out violations of the ordinance, but would take a passive role, depending on others to bring "conclusive proof" of a violation. (Of course, the Legal office would still have to do research to make sure of the facts before enforcement or court action by the City…)

2. Nothing in the ordinance committed Olympia to advocating unilateral nuclear disarmament by the United States (which would contradict the spirit of the February 1 Council resolution.)

3. (After determining that the Certification section applied only to City contracting policy) The Navy would not be in violation of the ordinance if it invoked its "Neither confirm nor deny" policy to, for example, a visit by the USS OLYMPIA.

Where I (and, I believe, Councilmember Mah) parted company with the rest of the Council was committing the City's limited resources to an actual ordinance, which would cost money to enforce and might expose us to significant litigation.


Volume 16, No. 5
WIP
September 2005
FREE
WORKS IN PROGRESS
Mayor Strangelove-Foutch welcomes the nuclear sub to Lakefair 2006. His sidekick Dingy Mah tows the line.

Our award-winning September cover

Even after all that, and after exempting activities of the Federal government at second reading, I still believed we should have been satisfied with the February 1 resolution and not passed an ordinance. It's not that I don't think the Council should weigh in on national and international issues, it's that we should do so in a way that better balances benefits with costs, both fiscal and political.

Fiscal: I think the City Manager's estimate of NFZ staff costs to date are low. But even if it's just two or three thousand dollars, for the general public, who've heard from us for years that basic City services are going to have to be cut, the "value" of the NFZ is hard to grasp. And I don't think we're out of the woods on the legal front, either. Enforcing the business and contracting provisions of the ordinance may well land us in court, with unpredictable results. Meanwhile it took six hours for one of our office

▸ **Letter from Mayor** *cont. on page 11*

Finally, in the discussion of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, my expressed concern was not just for American lives. I was also considering the lives of Japanese military and civilians that would have been lost in an allied invasion of the home islands …

Reply to Mayor Foutch's Comments

Carrie Lybecker

The mayor has not answered my questions:

Why did the city council meet in executive session? Why did the council accept behind closed doors the legal analysis it had previously requested publicly and knew it needed for 2 ½ months? Why wasn't that analysis discussed publicly? Why would it have been acceptable to receive the attorney's analysis publicly at any of the previous city council meetings, but not this one? Who threatened the city with, presumably, litigation, and what was the basis of that threat? How is it possible that the text of an ordinance can be significantly altered in secret, based on information withheld from the public? How is it possible that the city council can pass into law an ordinance, the text of which has not been made public?

Further, the mayor claims that "the ordinance was brought forward in August, when traditionally most folks have their minds on other things and don't . . . watch their City Council every minute. Most ordinary citizens just don't get involved that directly. They wait for the next ballot to show up." How unfortunate. Maybe they would get involved if they realized that the city council is actually making decisions that impact their lives.

However, this ordinance did not just slip under the community radar in late August during that one week when Joe Citizen happened to be on vacation, as the mayor implies. In fact, by June 11, Councilman TJ Johnson had already submitted its first draft to the city manager and held several discussions with him about it. The General Government Committee met and proposed to the full council options and revisions in June and July. The ordinance was mentioned, discussed, debated and/or revised at city council meetings in June, July and August.

Council meetings are open to the public, televised live and then rebroadcast. Minutes of council meetings and its committees, as well as draft, revised and final resolutions and ordinances, are posted on the city's Web site. Anyone can call or email the council and receive an almost immediate reply. *The Olympian* published numerous articles and Letters to the Editor on the NFZ ordinance as early as June 09. In short, Olympians had every opportunity to know about and comment on the ordinance. If citizens cannot, over nearly 3 months, read a newspaper, attend a council meeting or watch it on TV, read documents on a Web site, or pick up the phone and make a call, then they can hardly complain about lack of opportunity. The mayor's argument is further defeated by the fact that the city council does in fact make critical policy decisions routinely without awaiting the next election. That's what we elect council members to do.

And his effort to shuttle blame onto the General Government Committee just doesn't fly: it was the city council as a whole, not its General Government Committee, that met behind closed doors and passed an ordinance that had been amended, based on information withheld from the public. Lastly, I find it somewhat alarming that the city attorney did not have time in 2 ½ months to research the pertinent legal issues. And why wasn't this stated at any of the numerous council meetings at which the ordinance was discussed?

"A public hearing was held on August 09. Forty residents testified, all in favor of the ordinance. … TJ noted that, in all, the council had received 118 public comments. Of those, 111 (95%) favored the ordinance, 7 objected, and half of those live outside Thurston County."

Carrie Lybecker, WIP, 9/2005

▸ **Letter from Mayor** *from page 1*

specialists to go online and consult by phone with the State Department and others to determine who (if anyone) represents all the nuclear or possibly-nuclear nations in this country, with their titles and salutations, in order to carry out the my responsibility under the ordinance to inform those entities annually that, in fact, Olympia is a Nuclear Free Zone. (I have no idea if the packet will ever make it to Pyongyang….)

Political: Olympia is well and widely known as a progressive City. Passing an NFZ ordinance instead of just the February 1 resolution added very little proportionally to that reputation. But that action, together with last year's inflammatory draft resolution opposing visits by the US OLYMPIA, have narrowed considerably the spectrum of those who view this town, and this council, with favor. Now it's true that those reactions have in some cases been ill-informed, incoherent, and very emotional. And many of those we have heard from live far away and would never have come here or done business here anyway. And you might agree with my friend and Eastside neighbor Terry Zander, who told the Council a few weeks ago, "…if those people didn't care to show up to the NFZ public hearing, too bad. They had their chance."

But that's a very narrow way to look at the community and its long term way of dealing with local policy—and politicians. Put aside the fact that the ordinance was brought forward in August, when traditionally most folks have their minds on other things and don't want to have to watch their City Council every minute. Most ordinary citizens just don't get involved that directly. They wait for the next ballot to show up.

Council candidates going door to door this Fall are hearing from a lot of those people, and their opinions are just as valid as those of the activists who were much more visible on this issue. Some "shoo-in" races are now less so because of those voters' anger over the Council's USS OLYMPIA hearing and now suddenly re-aroused by the NFZ.

(And here I'd suggest that I did not "invite" the USS OLYMPIA to Lakefair 2006. In the course of replying to a report from her commander on the submarine's 2004 activities, I said that it was "my personal wish" that OLYMPIA visit here before the end of my term as mayor. I also suggested that most people in the greater Olympia area would welcome the submarine and crew as they had in the past. I think that's still true. As for using City letterhead or consulting with the Council, as far as I'm concerned, any and all councilmembers may express their personal opinions on any topic related to their official duties, using City letterhead, whenever they wish. In any event the sub's commander does not determine her sailing schedule, and anyway the whole issue is now moot as she's going into drydock for a two year retrofit.)

Back to the local political scene: I'm not so worried in the short run about the makeup of future Olympia City Councils. But this and prior councils have enacted a whole series of policies that define our community: How city services are delivered, and by whom. City employment, compensation, and contracting policies. Land use, transportation, environmental, criminal justice, civil rights. I could go on, but my point is that none of these is chiseled in stone. They can be changed if local politics changes.

Every community's demographics are changing and new faces will someday appear on our public stage. We should take care not to risk the gains made over the past 25 years for the temporary satisfaction of enacting controversial commitments that bring few, if any, measurable benefits.

Finally, in the discussion of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, my expressed concern was not just for American lives. I was also considering the lives of Japanese military and civilians that would have been lost in an allied invasion of the home islands, or as some have suggested, during continued bombing and blockade and waiting for them to surrender—all while combat continued on the Asian continent putting still more lives at risk. Those two disasters allowed the Emperor to risk a revolt by his military leadership and call publicly for surrender. I said during the Council's NFZ debates that those two nuclear bombings were "terrible acts" but that they most likely forestalled even more-terrible acts. World War II was the worst catastrophe ever to befall humanity. At last it was over.

Assertions by some American military figures cited by revisionist historians to prove alternative theories about why the bombs were dropped, seem to come from people who were not directly involved in the decision. Generals Eisenhower and Bradley, for example, were in Europe. Scholars for years have rooted through documents hoping to find a "smoking gun" that proves their various theories. Many books have been written on the subject. But the only person who really knew why he made the decision was President Truman, an outspoken man who stated his reasons very plainly. All else is conjecture.

Regards,
Mark Foutch

Mixx 96 fm
KXXO
"Soft Rock for the Great Northwest"
Rockway-Leland Bldg. • Downtown Olympia

Traditions
Cafe & World Folk Art

"Care to know where your money goes?"
Support **Fair Trade** with low-income artisans and farmers and you *will*…
We are:
• A center for fairly-traded products from around the world
• A café with good food
• A performance space for concerts, classes, forums, and more
www.**traditionsfairtrade**.com
300 5th Ave SW, Olympia • 705-2819
"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

W Marks the Spot

Bait and Switch in the Bitterroot

by Jeffrey St. Clair

September 21, 2005

Like Rumsfeld's Pentagon, the Forest Service under George W. Bush runs on pr, corporate cronyism, an obsession with secrecy and the rapid-fire deployment of fabricated justifications for cutting down old-growth forests.

In Bush's war on the wild, the trees themselves are portrayed as standing weapons of mass destruction, which must be leveled by chainsaws before they ignite into raging wildfires that threaten to incinerate the towns of the rural West. Such is the tale of the spin, any way.

Much of this struggle has played out in Montana, where Bush's chainsaw crusade has been blessed by the state's leading Democrat, Senator Max Baucus, who has long been an obedient wind-up doll for the timber giants of the Big Sky country.

Beneath the rugged peaks and park-like forests lies the stunning Bitterroot Valley, once the province of working cattle ranches. In the last few decades, though, the ranchers have been pushed out and the valley has been re-colonized by the super-rich, who have erected multi-million dollar weekend retreats, ornamented with private airstrips and helicopter pads, from which they survey their boutique ranches and decamp for fly-fishing expeditions on the Big Hole River. The Bitterroot Valley, meandering southward from Missoula, is swiftly becoming one of the most elite strips of real estate in the Rocky Mountains--Montana's version of the grotesque compounds defacing Jackson Hole.

> Ground zero in this war is the Bitterroot National Forest, a 1.6 million acre chunk of public land, adorned with Ponderosa pine, serrated mountain peaks and alpine lakes, that sprawls along the spine of the Continental Divide in western Montana.

By and large, the people who can afford to own land in the Bitterroot these days are richer than those nameless executives who brunched with Dick Cheney during the conclaves of his energy task force. Perhaps that explains why the Bush administration has chosen to make the Bitterroot National Forest an ecological version of their assault on Fallujah.

There's money in that valley. Lots of it. And the Lear Jet Rancheros who own most of the land there now are terrible pyrophobes, fearful that their rustic palaces, ludicrously implanted on the fatal fringe of one of the most fire prone forests in the West, will be annihilated in a wall of flames.

So the Bush administration opted for a pre-emptive strike, with bulldozers and chainsaws serving as ecological cruise missiles.

On December 3, 2003, Bush signed into law the cunningly-titled Healthy Forests Restoration Act. This bill, a kind of War Powers Act against old-growth forests, was adeptly maneuvered through congress by Mark Rey, Bush's Undersecretary of Agriculture in charge of the Forest Service, who once toiled the mean blocks of K Street in DC as the timber industry's top lobbyist.

Offering fantastical claims about the coming sylvan inferno, Rey, with the timely connivance of a few key Democrats, was able to intimidate the congress into giving the Bush administration a free hand to assault western forests without having to abide by the troublesome constraints of environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

All of this in the name of saving the forest from itself.

▸ **Bitterroot** *continued on page 14*

▸ **CVO: Wal-Mart** *from page 1*

ronmental hazards, lack of healthcare, poverty wages…) that are a direct result of their management decisions. This is why corporations lobby government for weaker labor and environmental laws. It's also why corporations break these laws when they can get away with it. They have no values … no conscience. If they were people, they would be diagnosed as psychopaths.

Wal-Mart's record proves it is the best of the best at increasing shareholder profit to the detriment of the environment, working Americans, and even the American economy. Wal-Mart does not pay a living wage or provide meaningful health care benefits. It teaches its employees how to get on welfare. It has a no-tolerance union policy. It has taught managers nationwide how to cheat employees out of overtime pay. It sells mostly cheap goods made in communist China where workers can not organize and demand fair wages. It refuses to pay U.S. manufacturers a fair price, forcing them to locate overseas. Due to this record, many communities call Wal-Mart the worst of the worst and refuse to let Wal-Mart into their town.

Unfortunately, these communities have chosen to fight Wal-Mart with methods that are often ineffective and usually miss the point. Communities often challenge Wal-Mart with zoning, traffic, or retail-size limits and quickly drain their financial reserves litigating in a complex regulatory arena over traffic, for example. This may work in round one. But what happens the next year when Wal-Mart updates its application with improved traffic mitigation? Wal-Mart wins. This scenario has played itself out time and again across our nation.

The approach used in the traffic scenario is a "harms-based" approach in which the question being asked is "how much must we let the corporation harm us … how much traffic must we endure?" This approach is often unsuccessful in the long term, and it also misses the point. Most communities do not fight Wal-Mart due to traffic impacts; they fight because Wal-Mart's business practices are in extreme conflict with the community's values.

> Citizens still have a measure of influence in local government, so it is here we must draw the line.

Citizen activists nationwide are changing their approach from "harm based" to "rights based". They are demanding to exercise their democratic right of self-determination by holding corporations accountable to the values and vision of the communities from which they profit. This not-so-new approach, which was used by the founding fathers in the declaration of independence, was re-born in rural Pennsylvania. There, community organizers protected their quality of life by passing similar CVO's that successfully stopped industrial hog farms, sewage sludge spreading on farmland, and gargantuan rock quarries.

The Community Values Ordinance is quintessential rights-based activism. The battle is framed in favor of local communities seeking to protect their way of life, and boils down to the citizens' right of self-governance versus the corporation's privilege to plunder for profit. Wal-Mart may challenge the ordinance using the legal doctrine of "corporate personhood." Under this claim, corporations argue they have the same civil rights we do: free speech, free association, equal protection, unimpeded interstate commerce, or due process. Wal-Mart may argue that it is beyond our democratic authority to curb its bad actor status in our communities. Unfortunately for democracy and most of America, Wal-Mart's corporate civil rights supercede citizen civil rights.

In an era where federal and state governments are "of, by, and for the corporations" instead of "of, by and for "the people", local government is now the last stand. Citizens still have a measure of influence in local government, so it is here we must draw the line. Ask your city council to pass the Community Values Ordinance. Request that it stand up for local independent businesses, the worker next door, and pleasant neighborhoods, instead of company-managed towns. Insist that government protects and serves democracy, its local citizens, and their vitally important community values.

To learn more about the Community Values Ordinance and about local citizen democracy, visit: www.reclaimdemocracy.org/Olympia and click on item number 10.3.

WELCOME TO WAL-MART! CAN I HELP YOU FIND ANYTHING?
YOU CAN HELP ME FIND A LIVING-WAGE JOB LIKE THE ONE I HAD AT THE STORE YOU GUYS RAN OUT OF BUSINESS WITH YOUR PREDATORY PRICING AND YOUR POVERTY-LEVEL PAY!
TOYS FROM ASIAN SWEAT SHOPS
WOMEN'S APPAREL FROM BANGLADESH
TSK, TSK... IT'S SAD HOW SOME PEOPLE HATE AMERICA.

▸ **After 9/11** *from page 1*

explains that 56 Iraqis were killed in US airstrikes. As the nation witnessed the effects of poverty and negligent policies on those who were unable to escape the horrors of Katrina, we learn of four years of rising poverty rates in this country, while the US military budget pays over 4 billion dollars per month to fight a growing insurgency in both Iraq and Afghanistan. A recent article in the Christian Science Monitor (8/29/05) shows that "Despite the relatively small number of American armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, the war effort is rapidly shaping up to be the third-most expensive war in United States history." The author projects a cost of nearly $1.4 trillion dollars if we are to, as Bush says, "stay the course" in Iraq and remain for five more years. "That's nearly $4,745 per capita."

These financial costs, however, are overshadowed by the cost in human lives both U.S. and Iraqi "The cost is too high" state the Military Families for Peace, who hold up pictures of their dead sons and daughters, as US military deaths (in Iraq and Afghanistan) now exceed 2000, many from Fort Lewis. And recent estimates of civilian deaths in Iraq range from 25,000 (these are reported deaths) to 128,000 by the Lancet (John Hopkins, Columbia University study)—the majority of deaths were women and children killed as a result of US airstrikes.

After a week of bad publicity coming out of New Orleans, the government, military, and police began to crack down on journalists, in an attempt to mimic their successful media manipulation in the Middle East, suppressing unembedded journalists, banning pictures of the dead, etc . Yet not all images can be controlled. In the spring of 2004, I was in Cairo, Egypt with students when the Abu-Ghraib torture scandal broke. Some of my students were working with an NGO for prisoners' rights in Egypt that had launched a nation-wide anti-torture campaign. The blatant images of torture, abuse, and even rape (images which have been shown to US congress but have yet to be published) served as a stark lesson that we must turn the mirror around and look at our society, our own violences. Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo. Katrina is another such reminder.

Are these images of the nation we have become? Or are they rather images that expose those hidden aspects of our society—the dehumanization of war, the corrosive effects of institutionalized racism, the neglect of poverty, and the abuses of an exclusionary nationalism that says some lives are more valued, others more expendable. Indeed these images confound the vision of America we have sought to project. And they capture, in a tragic way, what Nobel prize-winning writer Wole Soyinka has called "the quest for dignity in a dehumanized world." They capture both the poignant denial and recognition of our shared humanity.

We see this quest for dignity in the actions of people like Cindy Sheehan, and military families for peace, who have put a human face on the anti-war movement. Many in their grief have met with Iraqi families who have lost loved ones to the US war. We see this in the community organizing that took place in New Orleans, where community members commandeered buses, boats, whatever they could find to rescue neighbors and strangers. And we see this when people realize that their survival depends on being part of community, and affirming the human rights of all peoples.

> ... while sayings like "United We Stand" affirm the need for people to come together in crisis to ensure the survival of our communities and nation, we also know that this discourse is used to silence dissent and to stunt critical civic engagement in our nation's democratic processes.

So "What America will we be now?" In our concern with civil rights and democracy at home, it is important to remember that shortly after the London bombings, on July 22, the House voted to renew the provisions of the Patriot Act by a margin of 257-171. This vote makes 14 of the 16 provisions permanent. One of the more controversial provisions that allows federal law enforcements to obtain library and bookstore records was also renewed. A recent film promoted by the ACLU called "Beyond the Patriot Act" shows how these sweeping and misguided laws are threatening American democracy.

And as much of our attention is turned toward the Supreme Court appointments it is important to look at what is at stake. Since 9/11 a series of lower court rulings, with some backing of the Supreme Court, have tried to preserve constitutional rights of the accused, as well as the systems of checks of balances so central to our democracy. Let's look at a recent ruling in the Jose Padilla case. A federal appeals court opinion written by Michael Luttig, on Bush's short list of supreme court nominees, ruled in a victory for the Bush administration, that the government can continue to hold indefinitely without charges or trial an American citizen suspected of plotting terrorist activities. This expands the president's authority and reverses a ruling by a federal judge in South Carolina in February that the government cannot hold Padilla indefinitely as an "enemy combatant". This reversal, on September 9, was praised by Attorney General Gonzales, and condemned by the ACLU Legal Director Shapiro, who said "So long as the civilian courts are open and functioning, American citizens arrested in the United States are entitled to due process protections provided by a traditional criminal trial."

Another case of concern is the involvement of John Roberts in the appeals of Ahmed Hamdan. In June '04 the Supreme Court had ruled that Guantanamo detainees have the right to contest their detention before a "neutral tribunal," but the Bush administration continued to use military tribunals, under his own chain of command, with no legal representation and no review by the Judiciary. In November 2004 a lower federal court ordered a stop to these tribunals. Bush appealed the ruling to a higher appellate court which included Judge John Roberts. According to The Nation, while he was hearing the Hamdan appeal this past Spring, he was engaged in secret job interviews for the supreme court, a violation of federal law on the disqualification of judges according to legal ethicists. Significantly, Roberts' ruling upheld the Administration's challenge to the Geneva Conventions, just four days before his nomination to the Supreme Court was announced. So when we consider "Which America we will be now" it is critical to look at the projected composition of the Supreme Court.

Here in Olympia, I am glad to be part of a community that recognizes its connections to the international community. The position of the Olympia City Council to declare Olympia a nuclear-free zone 60 years after the world witnessed the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by WMDs is just one example. The city also passed resolution M-1531 to protect civil rights and liberties as essential to the "well-being of a democratic society." Here in our own community, and in the greater NW, we have witnessed the erosion of these rights, especially for our Arab and Muslim residents. The case of Army Captain James Yusuf Yee, who resides in Olympia with his family, and was stationed as a Muslim Chaplain at Guantanamo Bay is just one example. Yee was wrongfully accused of spying, spent 76 days in solitary confinement, and threatened with the death penalty. His memoir, "For God and Country" will be out October 3 and he will be speaking about his experiences on October 17 at St. Martin's University's Washington Center.

Which America have we become in the past four years? Our democratic liberties have certainly been eroded. We have become conditioned to extraordinary violence and abuses. But perhaps a new spirit of opposition is being awakened. Let us hope that this is so, as we carry on in the quest for justice and freedom that America claims to stand for.

▸ **Bitterroot** *from page 12*

One of the first assault plans to emerge from this Act is slated to demolish a swath of old-growth forest along the East Fork of the Bitterroot River, close to the pass where the Nez Perce, under the leadership of Chief Joseph and Looking Glass, executed their dramatic escape from the murderous troops of the 7th Infantry into the what they believed to be the sanctuary of the Big Hole valley. The Nez Perce were wrong, of course. The deranged Col. John Gibbon and his soldiers tracked them across the pass and opened fire on their encampment in the predawn hours of August 9, 1877, slaughtering dozens of women and children, as the weary Indians slept in their lodges. Lewis and Clark also poked around in these canyons and forests. The area has a profound historical resonance. No matter.

The Bitterroot logging plan targets an area near the town of Sula. Forest Service officials contend that their timber cutting scheme is designed to serve as a protective buffer for this bucolic hamlet, a kind of levee of stumps against the coming firestorm. Under the Forest Service plan, more than 4,000 acres of prime old-growth forest, posing little or no fire threat, would be opened to industrial logging, while the agency offered to do only a token amount of work that might qualify as fire-protection or ecological restoration.

But many long-time residents and environmentalists didn't immediately swallow the Forest Service's apocalyptic rants.

In the Rockies, the Forest Service's ratings for veracity rank somewhere between Bush's and Plum Creek Timber. Perhaps the old-timers and greens in western Montana understood that clearcutting generally increases the risk of big wildfires, instead of dampening it. Perhaps they feared logging would flush tons of sediment into the fabulous trout streams of the East Fork. Perhaps they suspected that the logging would destroy habitat for the elk, goshawk, bear and wolves that roam these forests. Perhaps they suspected that instead of aiding the economy of the Bitterroot Valley, the money from the timber sales would end up in the coffers a couple politically-wired timber companies.

> … the fix was in. The public debate over the impending destruction of the West's premier forests was a theatrical exercise, like Colin Powell's vaporous musings before the United Nations.

In a rare coalition, greens, local foresters and firefighters, hunters and flyfishers came together and drafted their own homegrown plan for protecting the town of Sula from wildfires and restoring parts of the Bitterroot Forest and its streams that had been mangled by past logging and roadbuilding projects. They called this the Community Protection and Local Economy Alternative.

Although some environmentalists believe even this compromise plan is too generous with application of the blade, it enjoyed widespread community support. The Forest Service didn't look so kindly on it. Indeed, the Bitterroot's Forest Supervisor, Dave Bull, arbitrarily yanked out all mention of watershed restoration and road closures from the citizens' alternative, claiming that the Healthy Forests law doesn't allow any kind of restoration work that isn't directly tied to logging. This policy nicely mimics the Bush administration policy on birth control, which prohibits federal-funded programs from mentioning the word "condom"-except to describe the failure rates of the prophylactics. Bull was apparently acting on orders from his boss, timber supremo Mark Rey, who moonlights as Undersecretary of Agriculture.

Sensing rejection in the wind, the Bush administration summoned a PR team, working in tandem with the Montana Logging Association, to help market the clearcutting plan. Still the desperate fear-mongering from the Forest Service and its allies about catastrophic fires sweeping down the valley with genocidal intent didn't sell to the locals. According to internal documents pried out of the Forest Service by the Native Forest Network using the Freedom of Information Act, we know that the public almost unanimously rejected the agency's war plan for the Bitterroot. When the Bitterroot plan was presented for public inspection, it generated an impressive 10,000 individual comments. It turns out that 98 percent of those comments opposed the Forest Service plan and supported the restoration alternative prepared by local citizens. The Forest Service tried to bury these results and scuffed their feet at releasing them under FOIA, an act the Bush gang desperately wants to obliterate in the name of national security. (Read: Covering its ass.)

> Calling all human shields.

Here's were the story takes a brutish turn and the Bush administration's pious encomiums to democracy, collaborative experients and local control are once again proved to ring hollow. For, that very same FOIA request also brought with it an unexpected trove of papers proving that the solicitation of public input was nothing more than a choreographed charade. At the precise moment the agency was supposed to be considering the views of locals and deliberating over the ecological merits of the competing plans, the Forest Service had secretly dispatched a kind of special operations force into the Bitterroot Forest, armed with cans of spray paint, which they used to covertly mark stands of old-growth trees targeted for elimination. This operation cost the agency $162,000 of public money.

In other words, the fix was in. The public debate over the impending destruction of the West's premier forests was a theatrical exercise, like Colin Powell's vaporous musings before the United Nations.

"The marking of these logging units before a decision had officially been made shows explicitly that the Bush administration's so-called 'collaborative' efforts were simply a bait and switch con game," says local resident Larry Campbell, a member of Friends of the Bitterroot.

There's a final irony here. After learning of the preemptive targeting of the old-growth stands along the East Fork of the Bitterroot River, environmentalists went out to inspect the doomed groves for themselves. Usually, the condemned trees are marked with an X. Here in the Bitterroot, though, the Forest Service spray-painted the big, yellow-bellied Ponderosas, some more than 400 years old, with an all-too familiar brand: "W".

Calling all human shields.

Jeffrey St. Clair *is the author of* Been Brown so Long it Looked Like Green to Me: the Politics of Nature *and the forthcoming* Grand Theft Pentagon: Tales of Corruption and Profiteering in the War on Terror.

The 1.6 million acre Bitterroot National Forest straddles the border between west-central Montana and northern Idaho and includes the rugged, alp-like mountains of the Bitterroot Range.

By the time the Forest Service released their Final Environmental Impact Statement, the "recovery" plan called for logging on 46,239 acres, with over 55% of the logging planned for unroaded wildlands or core habitat of endangered bull trout and threatened cutthroat trout.

Orders To Go
ph. 357-6229
Café & Espresso Shop Hours
Wed. - Friday 7 am - 3 pm
Sat & Sun 8 am - 2'ish brkfst ONLY
summer hours
week-days
7 am - 2 pm
Closed Mon. & Tues.
Darby's Café and Fine Espresso
"A place to share friendships, diversity, and great foods."
211 5th Ave SE • Downtown Olympia

organic coffees
locally roasted • fair trade certified
AVAILABLE IN BULK @ OLYMPIA FOOD CO-OP
FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED
OLYMPIA COFFEE ROASTING CO
OLYMPIA COFFEE ROASTING CO. / (360) 753-0066 / P.O. BOX 7 OLYMPIA, WASH. 98506

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES
South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper
Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.
209 East 4th Ave., Suite 206
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 786-6349
speech@olywa.net
www.olywa.net/speech

▸ **Purging** *from page 4*

residents estimated at 200,000, that's a significant dent in the housing crisis. And it's doable. Democratic Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, whose Houston district includes some 150,000 Katrina evacuees, says there are ways to convert vacant apartments into affordable or free housing. After passing an ordinance, cities could issue Section 8 certificates, covering rent until evacuees find jobs. Jackson Lee says she plans to introduce legislation that will call for federal funds to be spent on precisely such rental vouchers. "If opportunity exists to create viable housing options," she says, "they should be explored."

Malcolm Suber, a longtime New Orleans community activist, was shocked to learn that thousands of livable homes were sitting empty. "If there are empty houses in the city," he says, "then working-class and poor people should be able to live in them." According to Suber, taking over vacant units would do more than provide much-needed immediate shelter: It would move the poor back into the city, preventing the key decisions about its future--like whether to turn the Ninth Ward into marshland or how to rebuild Charity Hospital--from being made exclusively by those who can afford land on high ground. "We have the right to fully participate in the reconstruction of our city," Suber says. "And that can only happen if we are back inside." But he concedes that it will be a fight: The old-line families in Audubon and the Garden District may pay lip service to "mixed income" housing, "but the Bourbons uptown would have a conniption if a Section 8 tenant moved in next door. It will certainly be interesting."

> "We have the right to fully participate in the reconstruction of our city … And that can only happen if we are back inside."
>
> Malcolm Suber, New Orleans community activist

Equally interesting will be the response from the Bush Administration. So far, the only plan for homeless residents to move back to New Orleans is Bush's bizarre Urban Homesteading Act. In his speech from the French Quarter, Bush made no mention of the neighborhood's roughly 1,700 unrented apartments and instead proposed holding a lottery to hand out plots of federal land to flood victims, who could build homes on them. But it will take months (at least) before new houses are built, and many of the poorest residents won't be able to carry the mortgage, no matter how subsidized. Besides, it barely touches the need: The Administration estimates that in New Orleans there is land for only 1,000 "homesteaders."

The truth is that the White House's determination to turn renters into mortgage payers is less about solving Louisiana's housing crisis than indulging an ideological obsession with building a radically privatized "ownership society." It's an obsession that has already come to grip the entire disaster zone, with emergency relief provided by the Red Cross and Wal-Mart and reconstruction contracts handed out to Bechtel, Fluor, Halliburton and Shaw--the same gang that spent the past three years getting paid billions while failing to bring Iraq's essential services to prewar levels [see Klein, "The Rise of Disaster Capitalism," May 2]. "Reconstruction," whether in Baghdad or New Orleans, has become shorthand for a massive uninterrupted transfer of wealth from public to private hands, whether in the form of direct "cost plus" government contracts or by auctioning off new sectors of the state to corporations.

This vision was laid out in uniquely undisguised form during a meeting at the Heritage Foundation's Washington headquarters on September 13. Present were members of the House Republican Study Committee, a caucus of more than 100 conservative lawmakers headed by Indiana Congressman Mike Pence. The group compiled a list of thirty-two "Pro-Free-Market Ideas for Responding to Hurricane Katrina and High Gas Prices," including school vouchers, repealing environmental regulations and "drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." Admittedly, it seems farfetched that these would be adopted as relief for the needy victims of an eviscerated public sector. Until you read the first three items: "Automatically suspend Davis-Bacon prevailing wage laws in disaster areas"; "Make the entire affected area a flat-tax free-enterprise zone"; and "Make the entire region an economic competitiveness zone (comprehensive tax incentives and waiving of regulations)." All are poised to become law or have already been adopted by presidential decree.

In their own way the list-makers at Heritage are not unlike the 500 Scientology volunteer ministers currently deployed to shelters across Louisiana. "We literally followed the hurricane," David Holt, a church supervisor, told me. When I asked him why, he pointed to a yellow banner that read, SOMETHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT. I asked him what "it" was and he said "everything."

So it is with the neocon true believers: Their "Katrina relief" policies are the same ones trotted out for every problem, but nothing energizes them like a good disaster. As Bush says, lands swept clean are "opportunity zones," a chance to do some recruiting, advance the faith, even rewrite the rules from scratch. But that, of course, will take some massaging--I mean assisting.

Published September 23, 2005 by The Nation.

Naomi Klein is the author of No logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies *(Picador) and, most recently,* Fences and Windows: Dispatches from the Front Lines of the Globalization Debate *(Picador)*

Announcements

The Coalition for Low-Income Power Presents

The Focus on Poverty
Olympia City Council Candidate Forum

* Come question your city council candidates about homelessness, low-income rental conditions, and the realities of welfare in Olympia.
* Ask your candidates about the issues you care about. What will they do about police accountability? What about Bread and Roses?

Saturday, October 15th at 1-3pm

First Christian Church (701 Franklin St)

Local Progressives Create Permanent Network and Gather for 1st Annual Fall Conference

The Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net) is gearing up for its first Annual Meeting and its first Fall Conference on the afternoon and evening of Saturday November 12 at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia NW.

Registration, refreshments and social time begin at 3:00 p.m.

At 3:30 the Annual Meeting will adopt by-laws and elect a Board of Directors. At 4:00 registration, refreshments and social time will gather people for TC Pro-Net's first annual Fall_Conference. We'll briefly explore the power of multi-issue. We'll provide dinner and encourage people to connect with each other. At 6:30 we'll offer a variety of skill-building workshops and short networking opportunities ("Quick-Nets").

After a break with music and snacks we'll hear nationally acclaimed author and speaker Paul Loeb (The Soul of a Citizen and The Impossible Will Take a While). The evening will conclude with optional social times elsewhere.

A sliding scale of $10 to $25 covers it all! What a bargain

For information see www.tcpronet.org contact Glen Anderson 491-9093

What TC Pro-Net does: For nearly a year TC Pro-Net has created a variety of opportunities and services for local progressive folks on many issues (peace, environment, social justice, alternative economics, human rights) and helped people connect across issues and organizations. See our website, www.tcpronet.org which includes a Community Calendar, Action Alerts, and other features and info on joining TC Pro-Net, which still only $20 per year for individuals, nonprofit organizations and businesses.

The Gleaners Café at Eagles Hall, on November 5th

The Gleaners Coalition will be hosting a **three-course fundraising dinner and silent auction at the Eagles Hall on Saturday, November 5th**, to begin the campaign to open The Gleaners Café in the fall of 2006. The Gleaners Café will be a non-profit restaurant modeled on Sisters of The Road in Portland. Serving a nutritious menu featuring gleaned food as seasonally available, at an affordable cost to all the members of our community. If someone cant afford a meal, they will be able to work 15 minutes to barter for it.

The event, The Gleaners Café at Eagles Hall, on November 5th, will offer a **fabulous dinner and silent auction from 7 – 9pm, followed by music, dance and a beer garden.** The silent auction includes a gift certificate for dinner for two at The Herbfarm in Woodinville, WA. Dinner & Dance is $25/person. Doors will open at 9p for the dance party - $5 donation suggested, no one will be turned away…

For Reservations, please call: Barry at 705-2375.

ArtWROC Winter Bazaar

ArtWROC Winter Bazaar is WROC's annual fundraiser in early December. It started because we recognized the creativity of WROC members and friends.

We wanted to have a party, celebrate and sell our artwork. We recognize that many low income artists cannot afford the supplies to donate artwork, so the artist can keep up to 50% of the proceeds. If you wish to donate your art or crafts, please **call the Olympia WROC office at 352-9716.**

25th Anniversary Show
Mud Bay Jugglers
Benefit for Olympia's Homeless Advocates
Bread & Roses
Fri, Oct 28th • 7:30 pm
Sat, Oct 29th • 2pm & 7:30 pm
State Theater • 202 4th Ave E • Olympia
Tickets: $15 - 30 sliding scale;
$12.50 students, seniors & low-income;
$7.50 kids 12 and under
TICKETS
(360) 786-0151

Volume 16, No. 6 October 2005 FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Let us build an ongoing movement, not a one-shot affair, to stop this war and build a society based on need not greed. It won't come from the Democrats or Republicans ... but from us.

Peter Bohmer, 9/23/2005

Contents

4 Years After 9/11 1
by Therese Saliba

Community Values Ordinance 4
by Susan Bee

Treat Homeless as Evacuees 5
by Pat Tassoni

Purging the Poor 6
by Naomi Klein

Chavez Offers Cheap Oil to Poor 6
by Juan Ganzales

Stop the War 7
by Peter Bohmer

Do Not Contact 8
by Eric Stevick and Melissa Slager

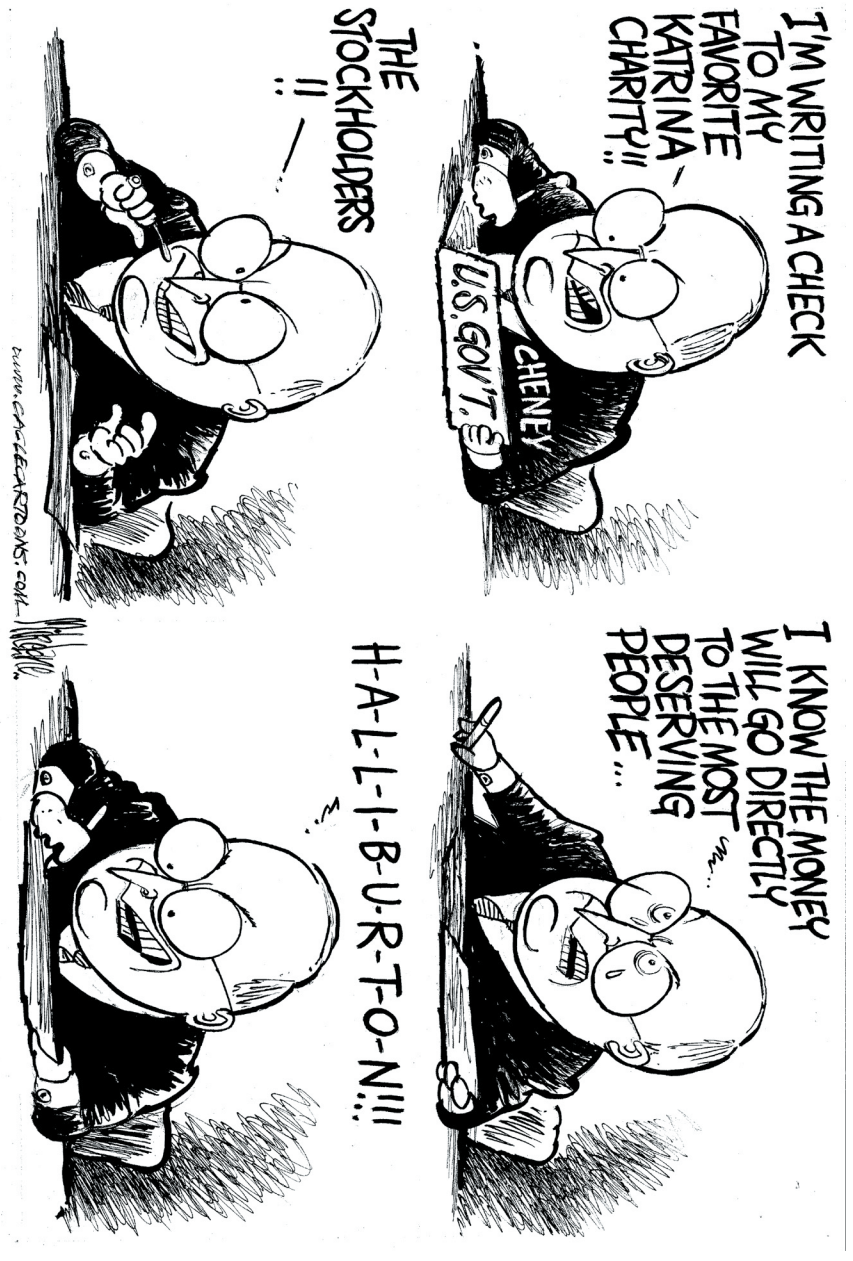
Routine Severe Abuse in Military Prisions 9
by Jim Lobe

Iraq Official Slams US 10
by Mariam Karouny and Alastair Macdonald

Letter to WIP from Mayor Foutch 11

Carrie Lybecker Replies to the Mayor 12

Bait and Switch in the Bitterroot 12
by Jeffery St. Clair


I'M WRITING A CHECK TO MY FAVORITE KATRINA-CHARITY!!
CHENEY
U.S. GOV'T.
THE STOCKHOLDERS
I KNOW THE MONEY WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE MOST DESERVING PEOPLE...
H-A-L-L-I-B-U-R-T-O-N!!!!

Works in Progress
P.O. Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507